

One Jackson Baptist church met last night to decide whether to appeal a recent City Council ruling which denied an appeal to keep some of the church's property off tax rolls.

And another Baptist church pastor has indicated his intention to meet with legislators to ask for a revision of the law which spells out church-related property tax exemptions.

The two Baptist churches, Robinson Street and Broadmoor, along with First Presbyterian and the Catholic Diocese of Natchez-Jackson, all own property which, for the first time, is being assessed property taxes.

All four appealed prior assessments and were turned down by the City Council. However, some of their properties and property of other religious groups in the city were allowed to retain their tax exempt status.

Retaining that exempt status are ministers' and assistant ministers' residences — properties which were included originally on the 1976 tax rolls.

But Baptist properties denied tax exempt status are the Robinson Street Baptist Church's day care center and three homes belonging to Broadmoor Baptist Church: the residence of the church business administrator, the residence of a Vietnamese family, and that of a furloughing foreign missionary.

The law, as interpreted by the city tax assessor's office, appears to be clear on the propriety of exempting a minister's residence, the house or building used as a place of worship, Sunday school, camp grounds or orphan asylums.

But the city council denied exemptions for a day care center, a convent, and non-ministerial residences owned by churches.

Said Robinson Street Pastor John G. McDonald, "We protested the day care center's inclusion to the tax assessor, we met with the mayor, and went to a closed city council meeting."

## Jackson Churches May Pay City Tax

By Tim Nichols

"I pointed out in an affidavit that this is a non-profit operation and used solely for religious purposes. We teach the precept of Christianity."

Robinson told the Baptist Record that the church will probably use the house in which the day care center meets for Sunday school next year. "For this year, we'll either appeal to the court or pay the tax," he said.

"We're also taking a look at their side of this issue," he added. "We do charge a fee for the kindergarten and day care."

David Grant, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, which has the three residences being taxed, said that "When we made the appeal to the city council, they were encouraging me to get the legislature to do something about the law."

For the time being, though, Grant said, "I don't think there's any question about it — we will pay 1976 taxes."

Jackson tax assessor Rex Wright, explained his position. "My intent is to put them on the rolls and get a clarification under the law."

"Last year we gave properties that weren't cut and dried cases a year's moratorium to get an amendment of the law — it did not pass," he said.

Wright said he hopes churches file briefs to the circuit court stating their position, "and let the city through its attorney do the same and let a court rule on it."

...all churches," he said. "I'm not anti-church in this thing, I just want to know the intent of the law."

But problems exist in all possible directions. If there is no appeal, there are possibly more restrictive interpretations of the law in the future.

An appeal sets a higher precedent for the ruling, according to Jack Welsh, attorney for the Jackson Catholic diocese, who said that the Catholics have not decided whether to appeal the ruling. He said that the nuns have not lived at the convent since summer, "so the status has changed. The principle may not justify our fighting it."

However, Welsh said that "This is an entirely improper reading of what the statute says. Supreme Court decisions have indicated that when you get into the inner workings of a church, you begin to intrude."

As to whether the law was meant to exempt only one minister's house per church, "actually, we probably have fewer ministers per soul, so to speak, now than when this law was passed," said Welsh.

The other avenue for churches is to ask for changes in the law. Currently the law, among other things, includes "The house or houses used as parish house, community house or houses, Sunday school house or houses, or house or houses of a similar nature, as may be reasonably necessary, together with a reasonable quantity of ground thereto annexed."

However, said Edward Cates, attorney for First Presbyterian Church, "If we go to the Legislature, it's an admission that we were not covered under the present law."

Final answers to the question of taxing church-related property are apparently off in the distant future. But they are a step closer, because today the questions are being asked.



# The Baptist Record



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 1976

Volume C, Number 44

DEC 21 1976



## Christmas Sparkles

Berry Emerson sings a solo during the 12th annual performance of the Baptist Children's Village Christmas program. A packed house greeted the young singers with appreciation.

## Foundation Earns \$1 Million, Urges Limitations Lessening

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foundation meeting here paid tribute to its retiring executive secretary-treasurer, heard a report that earnings again topped the \$1 million mark and unanimously instructed its chief staff officer to work toward removing all limitations on the Foundation's work.

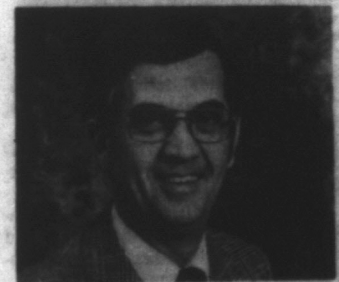
Kendall Berry, a Baptist layman, banker and former newspaper publisher from Blytheville, Ark., will officially retire Dec. 31, 1976, after more than nine years as the Foundation's chief staff executive.

He will be succeeded on Jan. 1 by Hollis E. Johnson III, previously a vice president of First American National Bank, Nashville, who has joined the Foundation staff as executive secretary-treasurer-elect.

In his final report to the Foundation, Berry noted that fiscal 1976 has been "a good year — not good enough, but good."

Additions to all funds for the year

### Dangerfield Joins MBCB Staff



Moses Dangerfield, Jr., of Biloxi, will join the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Sunday School Department, Jan. 15, 1977, according to an announcement from the office of Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Currently serving as minister of education for First Baptist Church in Biloxi, Dangerfield will serve as consultant with primary responsibilities in young adult work.

A native of Mocks Corner, S. C., Dangerfield has served Mississippi and South Carolina churches in music, education and youth work and was second vice president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 1974-75.

He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and earned the master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Dangerfield has been minister of education and youth at First Baptist Church, Clinton; minister of music, education and youth at First Baptist Church, Camden, S. C.; and had the same three responsibilities at West Jackson Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Frisco City, Ala.

He is currently a trustee of Blue Mountain College.

Mrs. Dangerfield is the former Kathleen Smith of Flora, Miss. They have two daughters.

amounted to over \$2.5 million in a 12-month period, and earnings topped the \$1 million mark for the second consecutive year, he said.

Withdrawals of over \$2 million were the heaviest in the Foundation's 29-year history, Berry added. He attributed this to building projects in which the Foundation has helped many participating Southern Baptist agencies by managing their capital investments.

(Continued on page 2)

## Youth Sharing Faith Is Aim Of Evangelism Conference

Ten seminars, five for young people and five for adult leaders, will be major items on the program during the first Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference Dec. 27 and 28 at Alta Woods Baptist Church in Jackson.

The seminars for young people will be "Assurance in Relationship to Christ," "How to Develop an Effective Prayer Life," "Guidelines in Bible Study," "What It Means To Be a Disciple," and "Strategies in Witnessing."

The seminars for adult leaders of the young people will run simultaneously with the youth seminars. The subjects will be the same.

Leaders for Youth Seminar 1 will be Rev. Charles Gentry, pastor of Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton; Rev. Jimmy Furr, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pickens; and Wayne Barber, minister of youth at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson.

For Seminar 2 the leaders will be Rev. Mike Jeter, minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Jackson; Dean Hunter, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Pearl; and Dr. Bill Causey, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson.

The leader for Seminar 3 will be Rev. Billy McKay, pastor of First Baptist Church, Madison.

For Seminar 4 the leaders will be Sue McAllister of Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo; Rev. Ed Bryon, evangelist of Clinton; and Rev. Bill Duncan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Long Beach.

The Seminar 5 leaders will be Ron Rainer of Pearl and Rev. Carl Savell, pastor of Woodville Heights Baptist Church, Jackson.

The seminars to be held simultaneously for pastors and adult youth leaders will be led by Rev. Doug Tipton, minister of evangelism for First Baptist Church, Jackson.

There will be four general sessions, each called a Joy Explosion. Joy Explosion I will be a multi-media theme interpretation. Joy Explosion II will also be a multi-media presentation by Dr. Robert Wall of Mississippi College titled "Alone with God on an Island."

A puppet show presented by workers in the puppet ministry at First Baptist Church, Jackson, will be the program material of Joy Explosion III.

NASHVILLE (BP) — A 20 percent increase above the average annual increase in Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program unified budget receipts is necessary "immediately" if the denomination is to finance its missions programs in line with projections through the year 2000, a "Task Force on Bold Mission" was told here.

"Urgency" and "commitment" were repeated again and again as some 50 leaders from a cross section of local, state and national Southern Baptists called for a major thrust in commitment and stewardship to begin immediately.

The task force was drawn together by the denomination's Stewardship Commission, an offshoot from the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting in Norfolk last June in a resolution on missions challenge.

The 20 percent increase in Cooperative Program receipts is vital and needed, participants were told, even though Southern Baptist's giving during the last fiscal year amounted to a 13.66 percent increase over the previous year. The 20 percent would be

above the average 7.5 percent annual increase which the SBC Cooperative Program has experienced over the past 20 years.

A statistical analysis of anticipated receipts and financial needs, according to projections, indicates that by the year 2000, eight times more money will be necessary to fund mission programs than is being given by Southern Baptists at present.

This could bring the SBC Cooperative Program needs to over \$400 million by 2000, according to projections.

Previous calls for major stewardship and mission challenges have come from national "Bible study"

Feb. 7-9

## Annual Evangelism Conference Shifts Design, Includes Church Leader Material

A conference formerly geared mainly for pastors will have program material designed to interest deacons, other church leaders, and church staff members as well during its 1977 meeting Feb. 7 to 9 in Jackson.

It is the annual evangelism conference. Day sessions will be held at First Baptist Church; but because of the expanded interest, the night sessions will

be at the municipal auditorium.

Roy Collum, director of the Evangelism Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said the reason for establishing the larger interest base is to seek to grow more evangelistic churches in the state.

Program personalities will include Lehman Strauss, Landrum Leavell,

Where the task force goes from the first meeting would be affected by any action the SBC Executive Committee could take in its February, 1977, meeting in Nashville, participants noted.

The Executive Committee, according to 1976 Convention action in Norfolk, is to work with the two mission boards, with the Stewardship Commission, Sunday School Board and the six seminaries "to secure full implementation" of the recommendations of a "Missions Challenge" report approved by messengers and "to coordinate denominational missions goals and action plans looking toward the 21st Century."

(Continued on page 2)



Strauss

Foshee

Stanton

Sunderland

## Silent Guns And Loud Rejoicing In Now Peaceful Beirut Streets

By Ruth Fowler

RICHMOND (BP) — The streets in Beirut are noisy, but the sounds have changed. The David W. King family now wakes to honking horns and laughing Lebanese children instead of gunfire.

The peace in Beirut comes after 18 months of civil war which claimed more than 30,000 lives and destroyed millions of dollars in property. Some Southern Baptist missionaries remained in Beirut throughout the war, living with its terrors alongside the Lebanese.

"How wonderful, a whole week of not hearing one boom or war shot of any kind," says Maxine (Mrs. David W.) King. "It's lovely. People are smiling, laughing and going."

Streets that were once unsafe to travel at any time are now filled with cars.

"Car horns blare in the traffic jams," continues Mrs. King. "But one thing I have noticed is the lack of anger and impatience in the traffic jams compared to what one usually saw before the war."

Perhaps the war has used up all the anger of the people and they are ready to live without hatred. One missionary said 11-year-old boys carried guns during the months of war. Now they can get on with the business of playing and going to school.

The peace comes at the Thanksgiving season.

"As never before, I think we all will be able to sense the true meaning of Thanksgiving," said Mrs. King. "And

first of all, we give thanks that we are alive to give thanks."

Although there were from one to 10 missionaries in Beirut throughout the war, none were injured. Emma Cooke cut her arm cleaning up broken glass, but in spite of several close calls no missionaries were wounded.

Missionary homes hit included those of the James K. Raglands, the William O. Hearn and Mabel Summers. The building where Miss Cooke lives was hit. Also damaged were most of the 16 Baptist churches, the Beirut Baptist

School and the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary.

Just a few nights before the Syrian peace-keeping force moved in, shells ruined the windows, snack shop and large school bus of the Beirut Baptist School. Miss Summers was awakened as shrapnel ripped through her apartment. Glass fell as the mirror in her bedroom closet was broken. She was not injured.

In another incident, shrapnel lodged in the Raglands' apartment wall above

(Continued on page 2)

## Children's Village Votes To Continue Tate Lease

By Dan McGregor

The Board of Trustees of the Baptist Children's Village last week voted to stand on the lease it now has with Farrow Manor, Inc., according to Paul Nunery, superintendent of the Children's Village.

Baptist Children's Village maintains a home for some 26 children in cottages on land both leased from Farrow Manor for 15 years with three five-year options to renew. The Farrow Manor operation is one of two satellite homes maintained by Baptist Children's Village. The other is in New Albany. The Farrow Manor home is in Tate County.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention in November authorized the Baptist Children's Village to either purchase

or lease for 99 years the property and buildings of Farrow Manor. Farrow Manor is in default in bond payments, according to financing officials.

An offer was made by the Children's Village to lease the Farrow Manor property for 99 years and assume the indebtedness. The offer was declined by Farrow Manor, and the Children's Village trustees then voted to continue the 15-year lease with Farrow Manor.

The terms of the lease are that Farrow Manor will provide the land and the buildings at no charge and the Children's Village will provide the operation and the staff for a child-care facility. The property was given to Farrow Manor by Mrs. Ada Farrow of Tate County for the purpose of establishing a home for dependent children.

Howard Foshee, Jack Stanton, and Bobby Sunderland.

Strauss is an author and a lecturer who lives in Philadelphia, Pa. His records indicate that he speaks about 400 times each year and travels about 40,000 miles. He also has gone overseas several times at the request of various mission boards and has written 18 books.

Landrum Leavell is president of New Orleans Seminary. Before that he was pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Tex., and First Baptist Church of Gulfport.

Foshee is secretary of the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board. He became secretary when the department was organized in 1968. Before that he was pastor of churches in Alabama, Indiana, and North Carolina. He is editor of Church Administration magazine.

Jack Stanton is director of the Institute of Evangelism at Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo. He is also professor in the Redford School of Theology there. Previously he was on the evangelism staff for the Home Mission Board.

Bobby Sunderland is director of the Department of Mass Evangelism in the Evangelism Section of the Home

(Continued on page 3)

## Dean Says Parade Story 180° Wrong Colson Not Drunk

LOS ANGELES (EP) — A story in the Nov. 28 national Sunday newspaper supplement "Parade" describing Charles Colson as "very drunk" is totally in error, according to John W. Dean, former White House counsel.

Lloyd Shriver, who wrote the story, was describing a party in the home of Dean and his wife in the Los Angeles area which former White House aide Colson and other guests attended.

"The report is 180 degrees from what actually occurred," Dean told EP News Service. "I've never seen Chuck Colson drunk in my life."

He said that instead of being drunk, Colson actually was taking the opportunity to talk about his Christian faith to guests at the party.

"As I recall," Dean said, "Taylor Branch, one of our guests, actually found himself discussing his own views of Christianity, something he had seldom done before."

Charles Colson's book about his spiritual rebirth, *Run Again*, has sold 400,000 copies in clothbound since it appeared in February and is now going into paperback editions.







The offering, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), is more than \$1 million

The directors approved \$350,000 in

Tanner told directors that Gerald Palmer, director of the missions section, will serve as interim director of the chaplaincy division until a replacement can be found for William Clark, who retires Dec. 31.

Jones, a native of New Orleans, is a graduate of Southern University in New Orleans and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Jones, also a native of New Orleans, attended Southern University and has worked as a teacher's aide in New Orleans public schools.

## One Day's Giving Reaches Goal

The south Mississippi church has had a life of mission involvement, said the pastor. It has had two missions constituted as churches and has begun prayer meetings along with a community census in a nearby area with the hopes of starting another mission.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the MBCB will be the featured worship leader. Other program leaders include Doug Williams, minister of evangelism and bus outreach at First Baptist Church of Center Point, Birmingham; and D. Lewis White, bus outreach consultant in the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department.

No fee will be charged to attend the clinic. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Friday, and the program begins at 1:30 p.m. the same day. The clinic concludes at noon Sunday. For details concerning area lodging, contact First Baptist Church, Gulfport, Miss.

Howard Taylor, pastor of Calvary, Greenville; Hugh Martin, pastor of Emmanuel, Greenville; John Hilburn, pastor of McDowell Road, Jackson; and Leo Moore, Jackson layman, will be members of a group going on a preaching mission to India in early 1977. They will leave January 6, to be gone for three weeks.

They will be preaching in Bombay, Calcutta, Gauhati, Assam, Vellore and other places. Part of the time will be spent at a pastors' retreat in India.

To register, or to receive further information about the retreat, contact the WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send your name and address, along with names and addresses of those who might be coming with you. There is no charge for the retreat. Activities begin with supper at 6:30 on Friday evening and conclude with lunch at 1:00 on Saturday.

Dr. Joe H. Tuten, pastor, said that the choir would be under the direction of Dr. Donald Winters, interim minister of music, with Nella Jacobs Rigell, of Jackson, as guest harpist.

Special guest soloist will be Dr. Cleamon Downs, associate professor of music and voice at Wm. Carey College. Other guest soloists will be Beverly Thames, Lois Nelson, Theresa Garces and Harry Carter, III, all students of the college.

Charles E. Endsley, church organist, will be at the instrumental console.

**WANTED TO BUY**  
Buggy-Carriage or light wagon Free—suitable or negotiable condition. Write or call collect R. G. Spill, 302 St. Dominic Street, Okemah, Jackson, Mo. 64816. Phone: (801) 962-0311

**FOR SALE**  
20—18' Pease, Good Condition. First Baptist Church, 302 Holy St., Okemah, Mo. 64837, Phone: (801) 477-3296.

One used A & Dick multifiber S21 Off-set 8425. One Lafayette automatic telephone answerer, like new, \$100. Call (801) 833-1619.

Youth will study "Certainties for God's New People," by David George and Janet Burton. This book, volume seven of the Youth Bible Survey Series, deals with the church in a time of persecution, but a time of hope. I

Also available as resources for 1977 January Bible Study are: "Study Guide for Romans: Everyman's Gospel," which provides a double-page spread on the Romans text in the Revised Standard Version, study notes based on the Scripture text, and learning activities;

First Baptist Church, Wiggins, gave \$40.12 per member through the Cooperative Program in a total of \$23,956.16 as of Sept. 27, 1976.

An additional gift for the building fund has been 10 acres of land in California.

The Evangelism Conference will begin at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, continue through sessions on Tuesday morning, afternoon, and evening, and conclude at noon on Wednesday.

To register, or to receive further information about the retreat, contact the WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send your name and address, along with names and addresses of those who might be coming with you. There is no charge for the retreat. Activities begin with supper at 6:30 on Friday evening and conclude with lunch at 1:00 on Saturday.

Dr. Joe H. Tuten, pastor, said that the choir would be under the direction of Dr. Donald Winters, interim minister of music, with Nella Jacobs Rigell, of Jackson, as guest harpist.

Special guest soloist will be Dr. Cleamon Downs, associate professor of music and voice at Wm. Carey College. Other guest soloists will be Beverly Thames, Lois Nelson, Theresa Garces and Harry Carter, III, all students of the college.

Charles E. Endsley, church organist, will be at the instrumental console.

Greenville, M/Div; Thomas Wilson Lazenby, Lumberton, Dip. Th.; Mona Jean Turner, Leakesville, MRE; and





# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### "Joy To The World"

"He rules the world with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love."  
These are the words of a verse of a favorite Christmas carol, and we sing them so much at Christmas we pay little attention to them. We never think about them the other 50 weeks of the year.

The triumphant fact of the matter is, He does rule the world; and He does it with truth and grace. The sad comment is that so many do not realize He is their Lord and Master. He doesn't force His Lordship on anyone. He has ruled the world, however, since it began; for He created it.

We Christians sometimes try to claim Him for just ourselves. Our attitudes would say He is our Lord and it's too bad that He isn't Lord of all. He is. There are lots of people who just don't know it yet, and the reason they don't

know it is because it hasn't been explained to them.

Now that's a simplification, but it's a fact.

And who is going to have to tell them if they are told?

We are.

Isn't it sad that so many are missing so much that could be theirs as children of the King if they would only acknowledge the King as their father. It's as if they were wandering around the world feeling they are orphans and thinking they have no Father, when all the time they do.

We must tell them the good news. There's nobody else to do it. Our brothers and sisters they are, and they don't even know our Father.

They are sinners, and so are we. They can have their sins forgiven just as we did, but they must acknowledge themselves as children of the King. They have to realize that their Father, the King, stepped into the pages of his-

tory, and that event became a dividing point in history. He not only came into the world, but He also took the penalty for all the sins of the world for those who would acknowledge Him as Lord.

This is why we observe Christmas, or at least it is supposed to be. This is why we have a Lottie Moon Christmas Offering—to go around the world trying to tell everyone about their Father. But the Lottie Moon Offering doesn't do anything for our next door neighbors.

The Southern Baptist Convention has set before itself the task of telling everyone in the world before the end of the century. Let's hurry. There are lots of them dying every day who have not heard yet.

Let's sing this Christmas with all our hearts:

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come;  
Let Earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing."

## Taxation's Knotty Problems

This issue carries important information about the tax situation as it faces several churches in Jackson. Each city has its own tax structure, so there is no way a discussion could cover every city in the state. There is no attempt to say that the situation in Jackson is indicative of the entire state.

In fact, this piece is simply to call attention to the fact that taxes do exist, and they are necessary for police and fire protection and other services. Sometimes it is a complicated procedure to try to figure out an equitable system of taxation.

On the one hand, we remember John

Marshall's statement that "the power to tax is the power to destroy." Therefore churches should not be taxed. Also, the eroding wall that still separates church and state might seem to establish the elimination of the church from the tax rolls.

On the other hand, somebody is paying for the fire protection and the police protection that the churches enjoy.

This paper would not try to interpret the tax law nor to establish what it should be. We would say, let's recognize that it is not an easy matter to come up with an answer concerning the taxing of church property.

Neither the article on Page 1 nor this piece is trying to provide an answer. We are simply calling attention to the problem. There is probably no one who has an answer completely acceptable to everyone.

While church members should exercise understanding in dealing with city tax people, the tax staffs also should be understanding as they deal with churches. Church budgets are not usually geared to paying out large amounts unexpectedly. If it is determined that in some instances the churches owe some taxes that haven't been paid, the city may have to make some allowances in how it is to be handled.

## Check Your Goals

This year is just about to run out. For those who gear themselves on a calendar basis and haven't accomplished all that was scheduled for 1976, there's not much time left.

Primarily, of course, this paper deals with matters that affect churches rather than the business affairs of the individuals in the churches. Thus it might be pertinent to suggest that now is a good time to check up on

goals that were set early in the year by individual members of the churches.

One goal we usually set for ourselves year by year is the amount we plan to put into the church treasury during the year. Circumstances will affect these goals in one way or another, but the churches have established their programs on the basis of the commitments that were made.

It would be well to check ourselves to see if we are on target. There might be

any number of goals that were established at the beginning of the year, and it might be too late to do anything about some of them. In the matter of finances, however, if we made a commitment at all, we are not likely to be far off the mark.

There is definitely a thrill in having a part of the Lord's work through helping to finance it. Let's make it a good year.

## Letters To The Editor

### Protest of "Passover" Film

Sir,

On receipt of information that a film company was in the process of shooting a blasphemous film on Jesus Christ in Israel titled "The Passover Plot" I wrote to the Prime Minister of Israel in August registering my protest against the Government's permission for the production of an offensive film. A few days ago I received a reply from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which tried to cover-up the Government's lapse by informing me that the film was produced by Americans with American investment and it has just been completed in the U.S. They regretted their inability to prevent its exhibition outside Israel (obviously!) but left open the question of banning its screening within the country.

For the information of your readers the theme of the film is a plot by Jesus and His disciples to deceive the people by feigning death on the cross with the help of drugs; however, the unplanned thrust of the Roman soldier's lance into His heart spoiled the plot. May I avail of the hospitality of your columns to request concerned readers to pray for God's help and protest to the proper authorities with a view to barring the film from reaching the screens not only of theatres in the U.S. but those of other countries as well. Many of you will recall that the other pornographic, blasphemous Danish movie "The Many Faces of Jesus" was recently banned by the Governments of France, Denmark, Sweden and Britain from being made in those countries due to the pressure of international opinion. There is, therefore, no reason why the American people, reputed, by a recent poll, to be the most religious-minded among peoples of industrially advanced nations, should not similarly exert their moral influence to have this latest outrage against Jesus scrapped and thrown into the junk yard.

Yours Faithfully,  
G. F. Fernandez  
Bombay, India

Dear Mr. McGregor:

About 4 days before the Mississippi Baptist Convention convened and asked for new laws as to the sale of pornographic materials, the enclosed article appeared on the editorial page of the "Jackson Daily News."

(Christ's Divinity Being Attacked — The Passover Plot.)

The idea that such a blasphemous book would be published and the film promoted by mass media is shocking and shameful. And in our nation's capital in this bicentennial year the "Washington Post" carried a black bordered promotion of the film, but note — they advertised it! This appears to be only the beginning of the antichrist movement. Whatever it takes, I think we Baptists should fight it — just tell us where to start!

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. William E. Agnew  
P.S. I loved Paul Vandercook's article "I Am Thankful." Is he from this area?

Paul Vandercook is International and Post Ministries director for Baptists on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

### Pornography Battle

Dear Sir:

It is encouraging to see your "Time For Action" Editorial in the December 2nd issue regarding the pornography issue in our state. The Mississippi Baptist Convention is making a real contribution to Mississippi by combatting the spread of this material.

A group of businessmen in downtown Jackson and their friends have sent a petition to the Jackson City Council requesting that the two pornographic bookstores in Jackson be closed. The Council feels powerless because of the lack of a state law. I personally feel that they do have authority to close these stores by using City ordinances, but they are advised otherwise.

Each petitioner was answered with a personal letter from the bookstore owner and his attorney, Dewey D. Edwards and William Sebastian Moore, respectively. A copy of this letter is enclosed. You can see how he emphasizes that their actions are harmless, that they are keeping out organized crime, and that there is not much we can do about it anyway.

I completely disagree with them and feel that they are a harmful influence and that we can do something about it. The presence of these two bookstores

in Jackson is like a cancer germ which will spread rapidly if it is not removed immediately. Mississippi is a uniquely clean state when compared to all others, and the only way to keep it so is for all of us to resist the pornographic flood.

Thank you again for your efforts in this matter, and we hope that your emphasis will result in the passage of a strong anti-pornography law early next year.

Joseph F. Fritz  
Jackson

### Medal Sought

To the Editor:

The following article appeared in the August 25, 1976 issue of Coin World, a numismatic magazine.

"The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention probably, unknowingly, made history of June 16 when it issued a special medal as a commemorative of the 1976 annual convention meeting in Norfolk, Virginia.

No one among the leaders of the convention can recall any agency or commission of the convention ever having issued a medal before.

The medal was designed by Floyd Craig, director of Public Relations for the Christian Life Commission. It is one and a quarter inches in diameter and is composed of an aluminum alloy. It was produced by Moore and Moore of Nashville, Tenn. The total one-time issue, was limited to 12,000.

The annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention was attended by more than 18,000 messengers from about 35,000 churches with a combined membership of 14,000,000.

For information about this special commemorative issue, write: Mr. Floyd Craig, Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention, 400 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219."

As I am trying to get together, to be distributed to various local, state and national museums, about 200 of these medals, I will pay \$1.00 each for 200 if they are still stuck in the blue folder. If they are not in the original folder they are worthless as historical items.

Anyone desiring to dispose of one or more of the medals may send same to me and a check will be in return mail. No C.O.D.'s will be accepted.

Henry V. Napier  
Chesapeake, Virginia 23024

## Book Reviews

**TWELVE CHRISTMAS SERMONS** by Charles H. Spurgeon: Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Mich.; paper; 138 pages; \$1.95.

These sermons were preached in the Metropolitan Tabernacle by Spurgeon. The book is a part of a series of Spurgeon sermons, for the most part, 12 to the book. The topics for this book are "The First Christmas Carol," "A Christmas Question," "No Room for Christ in the Inn," "Holy Word for Christmas," "God Incarnate, the End of Fear," "The Sages, the Star, and the Saviour," "Joy Born at Bethlehem," "God With Us," "The Great Birthday," "Out of Egypt," "He Shall Be Great," and "The Great Birthday and Our Coming of Age."

**1,000 DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS** by C. H. Spurgeon: Baker Book House; 521 pages; \$6.95.

These are one paragraph devotions of varying lengths on the 1,000 subjects. There is no index, but the subjects are presented in alphabetical order. Among the larger categories are 53 entries concerning Christ, 45 on sin and sinners, 30 on prayer, and 28 on the church. In one, Spurgeon says, "Man is like a harp unstrung, and the music of his soul's living strings is discordant, his whole nature wails with sorrow; but the son of David, that mighty harper, has come to restore the harmony of humanity, and where his gracious fingers move among the strings, the touch of the fingers of an incarnate God brings forth music sweet as that of the spheres, and melody rich as a seraph's canticle. Would God that all men felt that divine hand."

**PSALMS** by Charles Haddon Spurgeon, edited by David Otis Fuller, Kregel Publications, Box 2607, Grand Rapids, Mich.; 687 pages, \$14.95.

Verse by verse and psalm by psalm, the "prince of preachers" comments on each of the 150 psalms. Dr. Herbert Lockyear said, "To my mind this standard work, C. H. Spurgeon's 'The Treasury of David,' which Spurgeon considered the masterpiece of his literary compositions, contains more unique sermon hints than all the rest of the books on the Psalms put together. When it is remembered that... Spurgeon... spent over 20 years in research and writing of this monumental treatise, the acclamation of the finest scholars and teachers concerning this priceless treasure are easily understood."

Dr. R. G. Lee said, "It is my conviction that all who get Spurgeon's great work edited by Dr. Fuller will feel that they have made a wise investment and will be grateful... for the many hours of work he has done in bringing this to the public."

**WALKING WITH THE GIANTS** by Warren Wiersbe, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Mich.; 280 pages, \$7.95.

The author presents 18 chapters on giants in the ministry. They are C. H. Spurgeon, G. Campbell Morgan, Samuel Rutherford, F. W. Robertson, Alexander MacLaren, R. W. Dale, Joseph Parker, J. Hudson Taylor, Alexander Whyte, W. R. Nicholl, Charles E. Jefferson, A. C. Gaebelien, B. H. Carroll, J. D. Jones, George H. Morrison, Frank W. Boreham, A. W. Tozer, W. E. Sangster, and Phillips Brooks. In addition are 13 chapters on "Classic Books in the Ministry."

**BABY'S ANIMAL BOOK** by Hildegarde Ford with illustrations by Mary Win (Broadman, \$2.95). This colorful and delightful book for tiny children presents pictures and sounds of favorite animals. The cover is washable leatherette.

**TOTAL JOY** by Marabel Morgan (Fleming H. Revell, 224 pp., \$6.95). Marabel Morgan has written a sequel to her best seller, THE TOTAL WOMAN, which has sold more than 3,000,000 copies in the U.S. alone. In this new book she offers more help to wives whose marriage seem to be failing, and also gives advice to single women who want to live full, although unmarried, lives. She goes more deeply into the use of her famous four A's — Accept, Admire, Adapt, Appreciate.

**NINETY SERMONS FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH** by Marianne Radius (Baker, paper, \$3.95, 298 pp.). Here are ninety stories from the Bible, written in a graphic style that will be highly appealing to children. In these chapters the people who met Jesus come alive. The places He visited become real. His words speak vividly across the centuries. (Attractive illustrations are linoleum cuts by Frederick J. Ashby.)

**GOD CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN** by Russ Johnson with Maureen Rank (Victor Books, paper, \$1.95, 136 pp.). The author believes that the Bible promises a lot more than most Christians claim. He says, "God doesn't promise a trouble-free life, but He will turn your troubles into multiplied blessings as you exercise your faith." Mr. Johnson travels under the auspices of World Outreach for Christ to college campuses to lecture on "How to Prepare Your Life for the 21st Century." In this book he shares some of the truths that he teaches in his seminars and classes.

## "He Shall Reign Forever And Ever"



"...AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE!"  
ISA 9:6

## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

I was born the year of the Wall Street Crash, but as the depression began for other people, I struck it rich. A week before my third Christmas the Provider of Gifts sent me a priceless Christmas present. Uncle Homer came to get me one morning, and when he brought me home the next day I found my gift — a baby sister like a tiny blonde Christmas angel.

At first I was jealous. But then I was very proud of her, and wanted to rock her cradle. Grandpa Allen, with his white hair and handlebar moustache, came across the road to see his namesake, Betty Allen, but he didn't get to enjoy her for long. He died three months later of pneumonia.

People celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day, but never any special day for sisters or brothers, to express appreciation to them. When we talk about the past, that's when I realize how precious Betty is. We share the same memories of childhood. No one else can ever know — except each other — exactly what we know.

We remember the Christmases of our childhood: when Betty got a Shirley Temple doll; when we got autograph books and wrote silly verses in them while we giggled; when I got a bicycle and we had races with the girls next door (Betty was still learning, so we'd set her on the bike and push it, when her turn came to join the race; when Mama would remember the real reason for Christmas and reach for the Bible and say, "Emmett, it's time for the Christmas story," and Daddy would read the familiar words from the second chapter of Luke.

We remember the Christmases of our teen years: when there was competition because I was "the oldest" and she was "the baby"; when with our Training Union group we would go caroling, holding hands with our dates as we walked from house to house in the crisp blue moonlight, singing "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come."

We remember the Christmases of our adult years: when there were times of anger or sickness or disappointments; when with Betty's children we could again see the holiday

season through eyes wide with wonder; when for the first time we went home for Christmas, knowing that Daddy's chair would be empty; when Mama didn't forget the tradition of reading the Christmas story and we felt an even deeper gratitude for God's Greatest Gift.

I don't have to describe these scenes for Betty. She was there. She remembers. While I was in college she was in high school. She won all kinds of honors — I was especially happy when she was named Good Citizenship Girl — but at the same time she was doing chores at home and making varied sacrifices so that more money could be sent to help me with my college expenses.

As a mother she has brought up her children with lavish use of understanding and compassion, good judgment, and a sense of humor.

She has always been my confidante and my friend. Her house in the woods is also the home of one collie dog, many cats, good music, good books, and much love. Since we both feel reverence for the printed word, we understand each other almost without speaking. She expresses her thoughts well in writing, especially in personal letters. But her real gift is that of teaching, communicating with students and widening their horizons. A graduate of Auburn University, she is an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher of high school English in Hogansville, Georgia. I know that many a student will construct better sentences because of her grammar lessons, and build a better life because of her Christian influence.

I'm still enjoying the Christmas gift I got when I was three. (Happy birthday, Betty, and Merry Christmas!) My little sister was a wonderful gift.

But the Best Gift I ever received God sent nearly 2,000 years ago. "At Bethlehem," (in the words of Mrs. Carter Wright) "that peerless and perfect Knight, our Elder Brother, took upon himself the garb of our humanity and began the long weary search for the lost whom God still loved."

## On The Moral Scene

**NEW LOOK AT THE POPULATION BOMB** — New research done by Lester R. Brown of the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, D. C., suggests that the world's population growth rate is not climbing as rapidly as demographers once feared. On the contrary, the rate of increase reached a record high around 1970 and has since declined. In that year, 69 million people were added to the world's total; in 1975, a much larger world population added only 64 million. This decline is the result primarily of wider acceptance and availability of contraceptives of all sorts. In the United States, where the growth rate declined by one-third, social trends involving the role and activities of women seem to have been most important. In some poorer countries, the birth rate did not decline at all, but hunger pushed up the death rate, limiting population growth in a different way. Dr. Brown estimates that at least two million people died of starvation in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and a few other countries between 1970 and 1975. These deaths were not determined by some iron law of overpopulation; they could have been prevented by an international food security system distributing reserve food supplies on an emergency basis. Dr. Brown notes that the countries which are most successful in keeping population growth and resources in balance emphasize education, women's rights and economic development as well as the various "family planning services." — (America, November 13, 1976).

**AMERICAN DREAM OR NIGHTMARE** — The "American dream" is

looking more like a nightmare each year for additional millions of middle class working families. Latest figures from the Federal Home Loan Bank Board reveal the cost of a new home today has passed \$50,000. Just 10 years ago, the average cost of a new home was about \$20,000; in 1971, it was less than \$28,000. With interest charges, that new home costs well over \$100,000! — (News and Views, November 12, 1976)

## The Baptist Record

515 Mississippi Street  
Jackson, Miss 39201

Don McGregor Editor  
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor  
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate

William H. Sellers Bus. Manager  
Official Journal of The  
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST  
CONVENTION BOARD

Earl Kelly  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
The Baptist Building  
Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Clarence Whitman, Chairman; Gary Holcomb, Pennsylvania; J. B. Fowler, Missouri; Verna Dwyer, Pearl; James C. Ray, Jackson; Farrell Oak, Aberdeen.

Subscription \$3.00 a year payable in advance. Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas.

Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Press Association and the Evangelical Press Association.



# Today's Youth

## Hymn-Playing Festivals Scheduled In January

Piano practice for many aspiring young musicians in the state includes more hymn playing during the months of December and January. This is the time of year in which final preparation is made for the district hymn-playing festivals sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

This program is unique, even among other state conventions, because of the wide variety of opportunities for adjudication. Young people, grade one through high school may enter the piano divisions, and high school students may enter the organ division. Levels of difficulty range from the easiest beginner piano arrangement of a hymn to modulation, transportation, sight-reading, accompanying and classical selections. In all divisions, the major emphasis is on learning how to play hymns and accompanying group singing. Last year, more than 750 young people participated in 14 district festivals, each one receiving individual adjudication.

District festivals are scheduled in 15 following locations in late January of 1977: January 27, 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist, New Albany; Colonial Heights, Jackson; Highland, Laurel; Highland, Meridian; First Baptist, Eupora; January 28, 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist, Starkville; Thirty-eighth Avenue, Hattiesburg; First Baptist, Marks; Tybertown Baptist, Tybertown; East McComb, McComb; and Saturday, January 29, 9:00 a.m. at First Baptist, Vicksburg; First, Biloxi; Woodland Hills, Jackson; First, Greenville and Woodville Heights, Jackson.

Festival handbooks have been mailed to participating teachers in the 1976 festivals and church staff personnel. Additional information may be obtained by writing the Church Music Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Registration for each of these 15 district festivals must be postmarked by January 14, 1977. No later registrations will be accepted.

## Prayer For The Lonely

By Karen Brown

In my loneliness I seek thee, O Lord. Your voice whispers quietly to me as the wind whispers through the trees. The leaves have almost all fallen now, and yet your beauty continues to grow all around me. You have surrounded me with fuzzy soft kittens and a loving puppy. You have given me an unquenchable love for little things such as a bird's nest, the beauty of a pine cone, or a small patch of moss with its coolness oozing between my bare toes. You have given me so much to be thankful for, but the loneliness for human companionship persists. Therefore, my prayer is for the lonely, dear God. Help them and me, as we continue to walk daily with thee.

## Jackson Medical Student Works As Medical Receptor In Bangalore

Good and bad, rich and poor, beautiful and ugly — that's what John Strange, Jr., discovered as a Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Missions Board medical receptor to Bangalore, India.

A senior at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, Strange spent his summer at Bangalore Baptist Hospital.

He worked under the supervision of the five Indian physicians and three American medical missionaries. The staff pediatrician, Dr. Van Williams, is a 1969 graduate of the Mississippi medical school.

Bangalore's two-and-a-half million people use "home remedies that don't work" because they're "not well educated about modern medical care," the Vicksburg native said. Strange's parents are Mr. and Mrs. John N. Strange.

"They're accustomed to their government hospitals," he said, "where they may have to bribe the nurses to get their medicine."

The country's 600 million people are squeezed into a land half the size of the continental United States, and Bangalore's population is as much as the whole state of Mississippi.

"It's a land of contrasts," Strange said. "Cardboard shacks may be just across the street from a millionaire's home, and shanties back up to the magnificent temples."

Visibly different from the overcrowded city is Bangalore Baptist Hospital, which opened in 1973 and each year meets more people's health care and spiritual needs. The modern granite structure with landscaped gardens and lawn is on the city's outskirts, accessible to both city and country dwellers.

"More people come to the 80-bed hospital each year because they hear about it from family or friends who've gotten good medical care there," Strange said. "And the staff share the Gospel with every patient."



**UMC STUDENT IN FOREIGN MISSIONS PROGRAM** — University of Mississippi School of Medicine senior John Strange, Jr., worked as a medical-receptor this summer in the Bangalore (India) Baptist Hospital with the Southern Baptist Convention foreign missions program. An Indian nurse, wearing a traditional sari, assists Strange with a patient. A Vicksburg native, Strange is a member of the First Baptist Church of Jackson.

As a medical receptor, he made rounds and saw outpatients with medical staff members. During the afternoons, they worked in such specialty clinics as cardiology, obstetrics, surgery, leprosy, vitiligo, diabetes, and well baby.

"Their major health problems are similar to ours in the states: peptic ulcers, high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma," Strange said. That was my first time though, to see leprosy, malaria, typhoid, or vitiligo, a condition in which the skin pigment cells don't function properly."

But religious life in India is decidedly different from America. Only two-and-a-half per cent of the population is Christian. The 5,778 Baptist churches scattered throughout the country, including eight in Bangalore, total a membership of 749,738.

The 440 million Hindus worship a trinity — Brahma, god of creation; Vishnu, god of preservation; and Shiva, god of destruction — and some 330 million devas or lesser gods. And the 85 million Moslems follow their own specifically drawn standards.

Exposure to the people, their religion, and their health problems halfway around the world from Jackson reinforced the Mississippi medical student's desire for a career in primary care medicine. But the summer assignment didn't convince him to sign up for overseas duty.

## Joy Singers

### Present "Zack, Jr."

The "Joy Singers" of the Agricola Church of Lucedale presented "Zack, Jr.," a folk musical by Jack Coleman, Nov. 28 at the Agricola Church. Ronnie R. Cottingham directed this presentation with Rawleen Chisholm as pianist. W. Bryce Evans is the pastor.

**For CHURCH FURNITURE**  
Call  
**LEEDS SEATING CO.**  
P. O. Box 639  
LEEDS, ALA. 35094  
205/640-5175

**NEW AND USED BUSES**  
Complete Stock from 12 to 84  
Passengers  
**BUS SUPPLY CO., INC.**  
Hwy. 96 E.—P.O. Box 502  
McCOMB, MS 39648  
Phones: Office (601) 684-2900  
Home (601) 684-5574 or 684-6876

## Off The Record

Teacher: "Before we begin this final exam, are there any questions?"  
Student: "What's the name of this course?"

"Where my brother works, he has over 500 men under him."  
"Impressive. Where's he work?"  
"He mows the grass in a cemetery."

"You're the laziest person I ever met," the office manager told the young clerk. "I don't believe you do an hour's work in a month. Tell me one single way in which the firm benefits from having you here." "Well," replied the clerk after due consideration, "when I go on vacation, no extra work is thrown on the others."



**MISS TEENAGE AMERICA**, Rebecca Ann Reid of Dallas wears the medallion which is symbolic of the title she won in Tulsa on Nov. 27. The 17-year-old high school senior is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Reid and is an active member of Royal Haven Baptist Church. (Toby Drun Photo).

## Bus Report

Bus ministries in Mississippi Baptist churches had a total attendance of 7,454 in 1975-76, with 268 churches participating in 64 associations.

For  
**COLDS**  
take 666

things go  
better  
with  
**Coke**



## McDowell Road Choir Sings In A Dozen Florida Prisons

By Leo Moore

Each of God's children has been blessed with one or more spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-7). McDowell Road Church, Jackson, has been blessed with a minister of music with a gift for leading young people to express themselves as Christians through music.

As one of the outreach ministries of the church, Johnny E. Speedling, Jr., minister of music, led the youth of the church on a prison tour through Florida. Five chaperons accompanied the 56 young people on the journey of approximately 2,000 miles in seven days, giving thirteen concerts along the way.

Beginning at Cross City Correction

Institute, Cross City, Florida, the choir sang their testimony of Christ to 250 inmates. There were 56 professions and confessions of faith made here. Bibles were given to these inmates to encourage their spiritual growth.

So they continued through Florida to a dozen other institutes where over 600 decisions for Christ were made by men and women inmates. When the Bible supply furnished by the church ended, a chaplain supplied the Bibles needed.

On one occasion the concert was held in an out-of-door compound; and as all the inmates assembled, the rain started to fall. Seeing that they might not be able to witness to these inmates, Johnny Speedling asked the young

people to bow in prayer while he prayed for the rain to stop. It did stop. Then as the young people returned to their bus, the rain came in a real downpour. What a miraculous experience!

And so it was through the whole tour. God worked in the hearts of hundreds of inmates using these young people as His instruments. Many hundreds of letters and cards from inmates have been received by Johnny since the choir's return expressing thanks for the young people coming to share their faith.

This choir director and choir continue their ministry in music here at home in Jackson as they sing at Oakley Training School, Raymond.

## Remember The MKs At Christmas

By Barbara Taylor

As I think of Christmas and holiday vacation this year, my thoughts include family and sharing times together. This holiday is going to be especially enjoyable because my brother, sister-in-law, my mother and father, my husband, son, and I will all be together! The entire family! I can hardly wait.

Then, as usual, there will be the get-togethers with aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, etc. laughing, talking, eating, and visiting.

As my husband and I enjoy the experiences which we share with our families, and as we see our infant son grow and watch his grandparents enjoy him, we've been made more aware of those who are separated from families.

Although missionaries and MKs have the assurance of God's leadership in their lives and know with cer-

Elizabeth Applewhite (Indonesia), 4811 Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS 39211; Samuel Bethes (Kenya), Box 4885, Clinton, MS 39056; Janet Calcutt (Japan), Box 4873, Clinton, MS 39056; Deborah Jean Glaze (Argentina), Box 4283, Clinton, MS 39056; Michael Stephen Glaze (Argentina), Box 4283, Clinton, MS 39056; Debora Jean Hoffield (Italy), Box 4119, Clinton, MS 39056; John Hoffield (Italy), Box 4119, Clinton, MS 39056.

Peter Lee (France), Box 4872, Clinton, MS 39056; Marcus Marier (Guam), Box 4677, Clinton, MS 39056; Michael Merritt (Germany), Mississippi College, Clinton, MS 39064; Donna Gayle Morgan (Brazil), Box 4115, Clinton, MS 39056; Dianne Phlegar (Thailand), Mississippi College, Clinton, MS 39056; Johanna Clair Schoeder (South West Africa), Box 4883, Clinton, MS 39056; Abigail Smith (Indonesia), 391 East Hillside Drive, Jackson, MS 39208.

Lugh Bostick (Rhodesia), Box 4280, Clinton, MS 39056; Nancy Calcutt (Japan), Box 4872, Clinton, MS 39056; David Raley (Taiwan), Box 4282, Clinton, MS 39056; William L. Smith, Jr. (Brazil), 3331 Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS 39214; Keith Stamps (Ecuador), Box 4944, Clinton, MS 39056.

Deborah Trotti (Brazil), P. O. Box 4158, Clinton, MS 39056; John Allen Trotti (Brazil), Box 4158, Clinton, MS 39056; Rebecca Gray (Okinawa), Box 335, B.M.C. Blue Mountain, MS 39610; James Gilbert, Jr. (Ecuador), 4793 Chestnut Drive, Jackson, MS 39205; Eve Gail Mayhall (Nigeria), 847 Adams Drive, Greenville, MS 39701; Daniel E. Lee (Fr-

Box 238, WCC, Hattiesburg, MS 39461; Debbie Lindsey (Israel), Box 918, WCC, Hattiesburg, MS 39461; Charles A. Moore (Ghana), Box 471, WCC, Hattiesburg, MS 39461; Laurel Myers (Vietnam), William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS 39461.

Mark Maddux (Indiana), William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS 39461; Samuel David Hughes (Montana), Mississippi College, Clinton, MS 39056; Christy Lyle (New York), Mississippi College, Clinton, MS 39056.

**ANITA and BOB**  
discover the rewards of jogging!



"Who needs it?" said Anita Bryant when husband Bob Green urged her to join his daily jogging session. But once started, Anita found wonderful things happening, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Soon the Green children were involved as well. Now, Anita and Bob show how you and your family can enjoy the same benefits—

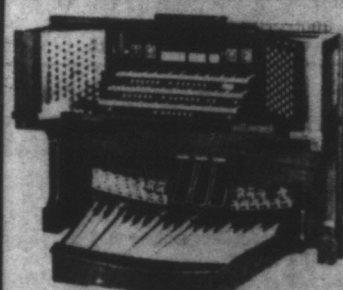
- new zest for living
- increased energy
- new family fitness and Christian fellowship

In the warm, personal style of the Greens' previous best sellers, they continue the story of their exciting lives and their deepening faith. As you read their new book, you too will be inspired to join them in **RUNNING THE GOOD RACE**. Illustrated. \$5.95

**AT YOUR BAPTIST BOOK STORE**  
Fleming H. Revell Company

## ALLEN ORGANS

The Ultimate for Church Music  
**See—Hear—Play**  
These Majestic Organs  
Prices begin at \$3995



## ROSEBERRY PIANO HOUSE

134 E. Front St., Hattiesburg, Ms 39401 (601) 983-0245  
Free Delivery Special Church Terms Available



**Borden's Is the milk for children!**

BORDEN MILK  
Jackson, Miss.

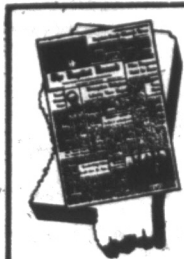
His ministry moves millions... here is the faith that moves him!

**What I Have Lived By**

**Charles L. ALLEN**  
an autobiography

Now, Charles L. Allen sums up the principles he has believed, proclaimed and lived by: certainty of God, dependence on Scripture, assurance of salva-





# Just For The Record



Calvary Church, Oak Grove recently observed Senior Citizens Day. The Senior Citizens were honored after the morning worship service with a covered dish meal. The fellowship hall was decorated with pictures of those being honored with family tree paintings especially prepared by Mrs. Joyce Giles. Their favorite songs were sung, and their favorite verses from the Bible were read.

First Church, Lauderdale, members celebrated the church's third birthday on November 21. The special service was one of thanksgiving, and of dedication of choir robes, Baptist Hymnals, and church library. The Rev. James Rawlings, former pastor, led the invocation. The Rev. Jerry Bishop pastor of the church, preached at the morning service. Gospel singing was led by Tom Harrison, choir director. Lunch was served at the church.

First Church, Kosciusko, has adopted the largest budget in the church's history. The \$207,219 budget includes \$50,440 for missions. Central Hills Baptist Retreat in Attala County will receive \$2,400 from the 1977 budget. Rev. Ray Grissett is interim pastor.

## Names In The News

Rev. Jack Moore has been called as interim pastor of Oakhaven Church, Memphis. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Moore of Drew. He is married to the former Marcia West, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Y. Fortenberry of Drew. Rev. Moore is enrolled in the Master of Theology program at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

Rev. John Moore, associate pastor and minister to youth at First Church, Summit, has resigned to accept a position as Baptist Student Union director at L.S.U. - Alexandria in Alexandria, La. Moore, a graduate of Louisiana Tech University where he served as BSU president and a BSU summer missionary, is scheduled to graduate from New Orleans Seminary, December 17. He is married to the former Sharon Penny of Alexandria.



Bill Rakestraw was ordained to the ministry by Calvary, Corinth, on November 14. He is the new pastor of Mt. Moriah near Iuka. Program personalities at the ordination service, left to right: Onell Bonds, Bill Rakestraw, Hugh Rakestraw, James Travis. Ralph Culp is Calvary pastor.

Saltillo Church recently recognized Sunday School members with perfect attendance. Rick Littlejohn, a teenager, was recognized for having completed eight years of perfect attendance. The Bill Bedford family was recognized, Leisha, Kim, and Bill, with a five year record and Beverly with a six-year record.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Larry Cox, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, are currently in language school (address: 3 Allee de l'Etoile, 37300 Joue-les-Tours, France). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Lexington.

Ben Frank Birdsong was ordained for the gospel ministry on December 1 by Calvary Church, Meridian. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Birdsong, he has been called as pastor of Overt Church. He surrendered to preach at the age of 12. He is a senior at William Carey College and has served as youth director in several churches. He is married to the former Kathy McMahon of Hattiesburg. The ordination message was preached by Dr. Lewis Curtis, also a son of Calvary Church. (Dr. Curtis is professor of Biblical Theology at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Florida.) Rev. W. Otis Seal is pastor of Calvary Church, Meridian.



Ben Frank Birdsong was ordained for the gospel ministry on December 1 by Calvary Church, Meridian. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Birdsong, he has been called as pastor of Overt Church. He surrendered to preach at the age of 12. He is a senior at William Carey College and has served as youth director in several churches. He is married to the former Kathy McMahon of Hattiesburg. The ordination message was preached by Dr. Lewis Curtis, also a son of Calvary Church. (Dr. Curtis is professor of Biblical Theology at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Florida.) Rev. W. Otis Seal is pastor of Calvary Church, Meridian.

## Richland To Have Autograph Party

"The History of Richland Baptist Church," written by Eugene I. Farr of Clinton, will be available for the December 19 autograph party in Fellowship Hall of Richland Church, according to M. W. Steen, chairman, Historical Committee.

The ceremony will start at 2 p.m. and Dr. Farr will be available to autograph personal copies until 4 p.m.

"Friends of the church are invited to attend, and refreshments will be served," Steen adds.

The Church Historical Committee will serve as hosts. Members of the committee are: Mrs. Zenith Lewis, Mrs. Helen Evans, M. W. Steen, Chairman, W. W. Pearson, I. Jay Broome, and Mrs. Jewel Hannon. Paul Williamson is pastor.

## H'Burg Church To Present Live Nativity Scene

Ridgecrest Church, Hattiesburg, will present a live nativity scene in front of the church at 1931 Edwards Street, December 21, 22, and 23 (from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday nights and 6 to 7 and 8 to 9 Wednesday.)

There will be a two-minute blackout every thirty minutes for change of characters. Odell Tebo is the Ridgecrest pastor.

## Revival Results

First, Hazlehurst: 35 professions of faith; 15 new members by baptism; one new member by transfer of letter; 10 rededications, 40 commitments of young people to the will of God for their lives; George E. Meadows, pastor.

Sunshine (Rankin): Dr. Jerry Mixon of Petal, evangelist; the Richard Miller Family, music evangelists; Rev. Mike Willoughby, pastor; Tommy Smith, music minister; 11 professions of faith; five additions by letter; many rededications.

## Devotional

### "Which Way, Lord?"

By Jasper Collins, Pastor, Bovina Mission, Vicksburg

We need to take an "Outward Look."

In John 4:31-37, Jesus teaches us that multitudes out there have spiritual needs. Jesus likened them unto a "FIELD, WHITE UNTO HARVEST." This scripture should motivate men to "LOOK OUTWARD."

The following figures were gleaned from the "MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION ANNUAL" of 1975.

Mississippi has 1,089 churches with a total membership of 580,000 people on church rolls. Of these churches, 312 did not report one baptism in their associational letters. These churches represent 35,068 people. The average size of the congregation reporting no baptisms in this report is 112 members. However, the largest church reporting no baptisms had 619 members with more than \$42,000 income. The smallest congregation reporting no baptisms was a church established in 1920 with a membership of seven souls and an income of little over \$2,000. The middle size congregation established in 1906 reported 385 members and an income of \$30,000. The smallest congregation in Mississippi has five members and reported a baptism. There are 76 associations making up the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Seventy of these associations had churches that reported no baptisms (including the association in which I serve). The largest association of the six that had every church reporting baptisms has 33 churches and the smallest association has eight churches. Where were our people at "Harvest Time?"

Most of us, at one time or another have resolved to be more busy about the business of being a Soul Winning Witness. With the time fast approaching when millions will resolve one thing or another on New Year's Day, may I say we do not need new resolutions as badly as we need to keep the ones we have already made.

Do we stand piously gazing into heaven all day and miss the poor seeking sinner down here where it's happening? Do we use our religious zeal to bow all day and fail to look up and "LOOK OUT" at the people in desperate need about us? I think not! We simply drift day to day expecting our neighbor to take up the slack we create by being neglectful.

me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me (Matt. 16:24). This is the lifestyle that brings joy the year round — a new life gained in the loss of life for the sake of others.

Christmas will be meaningful in its truest sense if we hear the news and start life over — or better, if we hear the news, commit ourselves to the Christ of Christmas.

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing."

The joy does not come until the earth receives her King. God's promises are

**NEW ALBUM**  
By  
**JAMALL BARRY**  
"ACRES OF DIAMONDS"

Features the songs "Acres of Diamonds" and "Just A Closer Walk". Gary Lanier is Arranger & Conductor of Album. \$5.50 each and 8 track available in 2 weeks. ORDER FROM: Miss Judy White, P.O. Box 428, Holly Springs, Ms. 38955.

A Woman's World Reaches For  
**Beyond the Ironing Board**  
Wanda Funder

I thought this was the week for a Christmas column and that the Record would not be printed next week, so I wrote a Christmas column, "Things I Like About Christmas", based on the acrostic of Christmas, and I also wrote a New Year's column. When I took the Christmas one to the office, I found that next week is the Christmas issue.

So, back home to write another one in a hurry for this week, I decided to write on "Things I Don't Like About Christmas", based on the acrostic, thinking it would be as much of a snap as writing about things I like.

I thought and thought, and asked James to think and think. Here are the few I came up with.

Commercialization, comic cards. Harried feelings from planning too many extras.

Raucy behavior, returning gifts to stores.

Intelligent people doing dumb things, like getting themselves under the influence of alcohol.

Stacking up bills you can't pay in January.

Teasing little children to be good so Santa'll come, traditions that bind too tightly.

Missing far-away folks.

Answering questions about gifts suggestions which are totally ignored. Sending a card to someone just because he sent one to you.

After James looked them over, he laughed and said, "I'm not even sure I don't like those things, except I know I don't like use of alcohol and I don't like missing folks who are far away." I agreed.

Then we talked a little more and agreed that the most frustrating thing about Christmas to us is knowing that there are people who have genuine needs and not being able to find those people, and knowing that there are many other people who really do not have genuine needs but who seem to use Christmas as another opportunity for another hand-out in their lazy, greedy life-style of hand-outs.

That brought to mind, quickly I'm glad to say, the scripture, "Judge not that ye be not judged."

That sort of puts the joy of Christmas back into giving, doesn't it? Knowing that reaching out in the love of Christ is our responsibility to Christ, not the worthiness—or unworthiness—of the one to whom we reach.

So, it looks like we mostly like Christmas. Hope you do, too.

## Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work For December 19

# The Joy Of Christ's Coming

By Bill Duncan  
First Church, Long Beach  
Luke 2:1-28

Good news of great joy!

The one word above all others that describes the Christian mood is the word "joy". The story of Jesus Christ is the story we want to make the center of our celebration at Christmas. When one discovers the joy that Christ can bring, he will want to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.



Everyone needs to see the joy in the birth of Jesus and how that joy is for all the world.

The circumstances of the birth of Jesus defy all that the world would have expected of the coming of the Savior. God came in a baby! Can you imagine the King of Kings being born in a humble stable and cradled in a manger. It seems that the birth was only noticed by humble people, like the shepherds and by heavens. The shepherds were the representatives of the people of the land.

The gospel is not the story of reward for human achievement. It is the story of God coming in mercy and grace to supply man's lack and need. Jesus came to save the sinners and not to reward the righteous.

We do not live long before we are awakened to our need of a new beginning. Christmas brings joy because we know that a new beginning exists. Man chose to rebel against God. As a result man was estranged from God. But God bridged the distance between man and Himself and in the birth of Jesus began again. Therefore the story of the coming of Jesus is "good news".

The coming of Jesus meant a new disclosure of God. God wanted us to know Him — not just His power, His wisdom or His judgment. He wanted us to know Him fully. So He came in person. Jesus is more than a picture of God. He is God in flesh. Jesus reveals God. He is what God is like. Christmas

means that our search for God is at an end. Christmas is a joyful occasion because it means a new relationship is possible. "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself" (2 Cor. 5:19). The birth of Jesus was God's intrusion into history in order that we might be restored to God.

Christmas is a joyful occasion because it is a means of a new principle of life. The birth of Jesus was God's giving of Himself. If we know this Christ, we, too, are involved in this kind of redemptive life. Christ came to live "the way of the cross". He gave Himself on the cross for our sins. The people who were to be His disciples were told, "If any man will come after

## Sunday School Lesson: International For December 19

# The Coming Celebrated

By Wm. J. Falls  
Luke 2:1-28

In this lesson we come to one of the best-loved passages in the New Testament. To be sure, it is almost ignored through most of the year, but young and old alike at Christmas are moved by its candor and simplicity. Many adults recall when they first memorized it; some did not discover it really until they heard it on the lips of their own child. It seems almost miraculous that such plain and simple words can depict such an amazing event. This is far more than the birth of an obscure Jewish child; it is the coming of God's Son into human experience. At Christmas we do not try to explain Jesus; we celebrate his coming and worship.



The Lesson Explained  
Jesus Born In Bethlehem (vv. 1-7)

Luke does not tell us as much as we would like to know about the time of Jesus' birth, but verses 1-3 were evidently enough for the readers of his era. He wanted Theophilus to know that Jesus' birth was a matter of history. The census required by Caesar

Augustus may have been easier for the Jews by letting them enroll according to their tribal homes, and that accounted for the family being in Bethlehem rather than in Nazareth. Although Mary was a Galilean, Jesus was born in the "city of David" — the right place for the Messiah to appear. Sometime after the couple arrived, Mary knew her time had come, and she bore her first son. After wrapping him in some cloths, she laid him in a manger — a feed box for cattle. With the animals the little family had peace and privacy, probably more than the inn could provide.

Angels Declared His Coming (vv. 8-14)

On a hillside out from Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep through the night when suddenly a shining being stood before them. They must have been terrified because the angel said, "Stop being afraid." Then as "the glory of the Lord shone around about them," the angel said he was really bringing good news — joyful news — for everybody. At last, the Messiah had come! For many years the Jews had yearned for him. Perhaps it seemed too good to be true; so the angel told the shepherds how they could recognize the baby. He would be lying in a manger!

Then, as though they could hold their joy no longer, a heavenly choir joined the angel and began praising God. Al-

though the text does not refer to music, it is natural to assume that the heavenly host sang its praise. Surely with the words of verse 14 it was joyful and moving. The second half may be translated, in different ways, but the best manuscripts read: "Peace among men of God's good will." Through Christ, peace would come to those who responded to God's will.

Shepherds Came To the Manger (vv. 15-20)

When the chorus disappeared into heaven, the shepherds decided they would go into Bethlehem to see with their own eyes what the angel had said. Perhaps after making several inquiries, they found the little family in the cattle shelter, and the new baby really was lying in a manger. Then they told Mary and Joseph what had happened on the hillside and what the angel had said about the baby. They also told others as they went back through the town, and they echoed the mood of the angelic chorus as they praised "God for all the things that they had heard and seen." Instead of notifying the high priest or the king,

**CHURCH BUSES**  
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

God had announced his Son's birth to some plain and probably poor men ready to believe and rejoice.

How full of rich meaning is verse 19! Young Mary had been startled by the angel's word that she would be Messiah's mother. The following months were not easy. But now shepherds reported that an angel had called her son "a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." She may have told Luke that she thought about these things many times through the years.

**OLD BIBLES REBOUND**  
A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.  
"Internationally known specialists"  
**NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.**  
Box 305-C - Greenwood Miss. 39270

**AFRAID OF GOING DEAF?**  
Jackson, Miss.—An offer of special interest to those who hear but don't understand words has been announced by Capital Hearing Aid Center. A model of the smallest aid of its kind will be offered to anyone answering this advertisement. Write today to see how tiny hearing help can be. It actually weighs less than one-third ounce and all in the ear...no tubes or cords. Thousands have already been helped. Write today to Capital Hearing Aid Center, 708 East Fortification St., Jackson, MS 39201.

**HEADQUARTERS**  
FOR ALL TYPES OF  
**School & Church Furniture**  
• Complete stock of chairs, tables, desks and furnishings for Classroom, Library, Sunday School, Auditorium, Cafeteria and every School and Church use.

EVERYTHING FOR THE SCHOOL AND CHURCH

**MISSISSIPPI School Supply Co.**  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

**MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT**  
(Policy Form MCXC)  
**NOW AVAILABLE**  
HELPS PAY WHAT MEDICARE DOESN'T PAY  
**BENEFITS FOR**  
• HOSPITAL • DOCTOR • SURGEON  
• NURSE • NURSING HOME  
Coverage begins on effective date of policy  
**NO WAITING PERIODS**  
For Full Information, Fill Out Coupon And Mail To  
**UNITED AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY**  
HUTTON & BOLLS INS. AGENCY  
P. O. Box 6754 — Evans Center Bldg. #4  
Jackson, Mississippi 39212

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



The

# Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1976

Volume C, Number 45

## Sunday School Tops 1976 Southern Baptist Projection

NASHVILLE (BP) — The largest Sunday School enrollment gain in 21 years and significant increases in total recipients and mission expenditures dominate the 1976 statistical picture for the Southern Baptist Convention, according to preliminary estimates compiled by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Projections also indicate slight increases in church membership and WMU, Brotherhood and church music enrollments.

The only decreases predicted for 1976 are in baptisms and Church Training enrollment, according to reports received from more than 26,000 Southern Baptist churches.

The final official report will be released in February 1977, according to Martin B. Bradley, manager of the Sunday School Board's research services department. Approximately 35,000 churches will contribute to the final report, Bradley said.

Total Southern Baptist Convention receipts projected for 1976 will top \$1.6 billion, an increase of nearly 12 percent over last year's total of \$1.47 billion. The final figure is projected to be near \$1,651,209,000.

The Bicentennial year was a banner year for Sunday School, with an expected ongoing enrollment of more than 7,470,000 people. It marks the fifth consecutive year Sunday School en-

rollment has increased, and the additional 189,320 members over last year makes the enrollment gain the highest since 1955.

A. V. Washburn, secretary of the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, expressed personal gratification over the 2.6 percent increase, which he said represented "a growing commitment in our churches and denomination to the basic necessity of reaching more people for meaningful Bible study."

"This year, ACTION, A reach out enrollment plan for Sunday School, has provided a major and effective instrument for church outreach," Washburn said. "Approximately 1,700 churches have conducted an ACTION

campaign and the increases in these churches have stimulated growth in many others."

Washburn also pointed out that for the first time in many years, the increase in Sunday School enrollment exceeded the growth in church membership.

"This is most wholesome, and if it continues, greater gains in baptisms, Christian growth and Christian discipleship should follow, he said.

According to projections, mission expenditures also recorded a large increase in 1976. Total expenditures are expected to be more than \$263,042,400, a gain of 10.7 percent over last year's \$237,617,406.

Estimates for church membership (Continued on page 2)

## Southern Baptist Schools Graduate A Half-Million

NASHVILLE (BP) — Seventy-one Southern Baptist-related colleges, seminaries and schools across the nation passed the one half million mark in total graduates since the first one of them was founded in 1825, according to statistics compiled here.

The schools, which have continued to show enrollment increases, have recorded 502,683 graduates through

the end of the 1975-76 school year, according to Ben C. Fisher, executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The system of schools currently includes 43 senior colleges, with 352,675 graduates; 10 junior colleges, with 70,984 graduates; seven theological seminaries, with 40,321; seven academies, with 17,319; and four Bible schools, with 2,456.

The oldest institution on the list is Furman University, Greenville, S. C. founded in 1825 and showing 15,464 total graduates; and the newest is Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., founded in 1966 and showing 258 graduates, according to George Capps, the commission's associate executive director. Baylor University, Waco, Tex., founded in 1845, has the most graduates, with 53,235.

Thirty-six of the institutions were founded in the 1800s, with 14 others beginning between 1904 and 1922.

Five-year enrollment comparisons, released earlier, indicate that the 71 institutions have shown overall increases in total enrollment, from 110,143 to 141,554 between the 1969-70 and 1975-76 school years. That represents a 28.52 percent increase.

Senior and junior colleges rose from 94,167 to 120,999 in that period, a 28.40 percent increase; seminaries, from 12,041 to 16,550, a 37.45 percent increase; Bible schools, 807 to 1,132, a 40.27 percent increase; and academies, 3,128 to 2,963, a 5.27 percent decrease.

"More important than numerical totals," said Fisher, commenting on the growth pattern of Southern Baptist schools, "is the need for our educational system to continue to emphasize the Christian values which will make a difference in the quality of life of the students we graduate."

"We want institutions where values make a difference," he continued. "Transmission of values was emphasized at our recent National Colloquium on Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools in Williamsburg, Va., and we will emphasize it again during our annual Baptist Seminaries, Colleges and Schools Day next February 28."



## A Country Church Sleigh Ride

Memories of a kind of Christmas almost gone tell us that being with our church family whether on a sleigh ride or just a short visit to their homes, is a necessary part of our responsibility of imparting the Christmas spirit to those we love.

## Season's Greetings

The members of the staff and the employees of the Baptist Record along with all the other members of the staff and employees of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board wish for all Mississippi Baptists a joyous Christmas season and a happy and gratifying New Year.

In accordance with the terms of its mailing permit, which calls for 50 issues each year, the Baptist Record will not publish an issue for Dec. 30. May the observance of the birthday of Christ the Lord cause everyone to have a Merry Christmas, and may all look forward to a Happy New Year.

## Bible Teaching-Learning Workshop Set Feb. 14-15

A state-wide Bible Teaching-Learning Workshop is scheduled Feb. 14-15 at Alta Woods Baptist Church in Jackson with featured speakers being Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, and A. V. Washburn, secretary of the Sunday School Department of the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Age group conferences will be held for preschool children, children, youth, adults, and general officers. New books to be studied include "Teaching Preschoolers" for preschool; "Teaching Children in Sunday School" for children; "Teaching Youth in Sunday School" for youth; "Teaching Adults in Sunday School" for adults; and "Helping Teachers Teach" for general officers.

The conference will get under way at 1 p.m. on Feb. 14 continue through afternoon and evening sessions that day and morning, afternoon, and evening sessions the next day.

In addition to the age group conferences on Monday afternoon and Monday evening and Tuesday morning and evening there will be special interest conferences on Tuesday afternoon. Special content areas for conferences will include how to use curriculum materials, teacher (leader) worker



Washburn



Pollard

roles, environment for teaching-learning, evaluation of Bible teaching-learning, learner roles, teaching methods (learning activities), getting ready to teach (planning) church (home teaching relationships), philosophy and guidelines for age group Bible teaching, and how to use teaching learning resources.

This is one of 46 such conferences to be held across the nation next year. It will be jointly sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Sunday School Department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Bryant Cummings is director of the Mississippi Sunday School Department.

## Prosecutor Appeals Decision In Baptist Missionary's Trial

TAEJON, Korea (BP) — The judge's decision in a recent trial here involving Southern Baptist missionary Rolla M. (Ronnie) Bradley has been appealed by the prosecutor.

Bradley was fined approximately \$200 for his alleged neglect in a car accident that killed a man. The prosecutor had demanded a 10-month jail sentence for Bradley's alleged part in the accident in February, according to Don C. Jones, administrator of the Korea Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

Bradley was accused of being negligent when his car supposedly sideswiped a drunken pedestrian, according to George H. Hays, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for East Asia.

Other than establishing that Bradley's car was in the general vicinity of the accident, all evidence was circumstantial, according to Hays. No one actually saw the accident. Neither Bradley nor the Korean pastor riding

with him was aware an accident had occurred.

Bradley will have to go back to trial in the next two to three months. "He will be called before a panel of three judges who will review the proceedings of the lower court," Jones said. "We are told that in 80 percent of cases, the decision of the lower court is upheld."

Several other Southern Baptist missionaries have been involved in car accidents in Korea since just more than a year ago. The Arnold A. Petersons, the Jack D. Everharts, Barbara (Mrs. Thomas T.) Jackson and Miss Lucy E. Wagner have had accidents. No charges were filed in the Everhart, Jackson and Peterson accidents, but they were in Miss Wagner's case.

"In none of these cases has it been shown that the missionaries were careless," Hays said.

Miss Wagner went to court and was given a 10-month suspended jail sentence and her driver's license was re-

voked, according to Hays. She was involved in an accident with an off-duty policeman on a motorcycle. The policeman hit her right front fender, was thrown off the motorcycle and broke his leg. His leg remained in a cast too long, gangrene set in and he lost three toes.

An out-of-court settlement was reached between the family and the Korea Baptist Mission's insurance company. The insurance company paid \$10,000 and then the Foreign Mission Board had to appropriate about \$28,000 more to compensate for his 10-month hospital stay and for loss of his job and status as a policeman. Because of the loss of the toes, he can no longer be a policeman in Korea.

The policeman's family first presented a \$8 million "won" or \$76,000 claim to the insurance company. The mission's lawyer said the court would sympathize with the family and would probably demand that amount so he suggested an out-of-court settlement. "They knew that it would be financially better, as well as being better for our work and its image in Korea," Hays said.

An elderly man stepped out in front of Mrs. Jackson's car as he was trying to get to a bus stop in front of a Pentecostal church he had just attended. No charges were filed against the Jacksons but they immediately took personal condolence money to the bereaved family.

(Continued on page 6)

## Medical Missions Evaluated In Mid-East And South Asia

ATHENS, Greece (BP) — Criteria for evaluating Southern Baptist medical mission work in the Middle East and South Asia were set up during a meeting here of medical and Foreign Mission Board personnel.

Participants recommended to the board that an evaluation committee be named to tour the four hospitals located in Gaza, Jordan, Yemen and India. They also adopted a set of basic guidelines to be used by the medical units and the committee.

The committee will be composed of the Foreign Mission Board's area secretary or his representative, the board's medical missions consultant or his representative, and three non-board related medical personnel (one physician, one nurse and one hospital administrator).

Spiritual effectiveness, professional competency, and administrative and financial efficiency of the medical units are the specific guidelines suggested for evaluation.

J. D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, said medical missions work, like all mission work, is due close examination as the Foreign Mission Board enters a new 25-year plan.

He said the evaluation of the committee "will carry a great deal of weight" and the future of medical work in the hospitals may be contingent upon the evaluation results and the availability of personnel.

Institutions are still needed, Hughey said, although in some nations competent medical care is now available through government hospitals.

In Yemen, the Baptist Hospital is the most modern medical institution and in some nations medical work provides the only opportunity for Baptist

witness.

Two of the hospitals in the Middle East — in Gaza and Yemen — are facing a crisis in personnel. To adequately run the 75 bed hospitals, at

(Continued on page 2)

## Please, No Letters To FCC About Religious Broadcasting

There is no petition before the Federal Communications Commission concerning the barring of religious broadcasting. There has not been such a petition in recent years. The circulars and news stories being circulated in Mississippi and across the country are simply false. The FCC is receiving five to six thousand pieces of mail each day on the subject and has received four and one-half million pieces to date based upon the false rumor that is being circulated, no doubt, by well-meaning but misguided citizens.

Mississippi Baptists have the means of checking out church-state issues through the cooperation of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington and the Christian Action Commission. J. Clark Hensley, Executive Director of the Christian Action Commission, re-checked the facts Monday morning, December 20, after an article appeared in the Sunday Jackson paper.

When the rumor first started, John Baker, Director of Research for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, wrote for Baptist Press: "A group of California religious people has asked that the FCC not grant new educational, non-commercial FM or TV channels to be used exclusively for religious broadcasting." This was the petition number RM 2483. This petition was subsequently rejected by FCC in August, 1975. According to the Baker article of 1975, Mrs. Madalyn O'Hare had nothing to do with the educational TV petition.

Baker further stated: "Acting on or distributing these unfactual circulars is just one of the many instances in which a number of religious people have responded without determining the facts. Such uninformed response dilutes their present and future influence with Congress and the administrative agencies."

## New Gulfshore Begins Taking Shape

A lowering crane lifts scaffolding as progress continues on the reconstruction of buildings at Gulfshore assembly. Ray Anderson Jr., of Gulfport is the general contractor for the construction work. The \$3.75 million project is scheduled for completion in 1978. Ray Allen of Gulfport is superintendent, and C. E. McInnes of Gulfport is office engineer. (More pictures on page 3).



# Carter Gets Prayer Resolutions From 16 State Baptist Meetings

If the majority of Southern Baptists, meeting in recently completed annual state conventions across the U.S., agreed on any one thing—it was to pray for their fellow Southern Baptist, President-elect Jimmy Carter.

Of the 33 state-level Southern Baptist annual meetings, 16 voted to pray specifically for Carter and other elected leaders, two resolved to pray for all elected leaders without mentioning the President-elect by name,

and five has completed annual sessions before his Nov. 2 victory over President Gerald Ford. That left 10 which, according to reports, made no specific mention of praying for the former Georgia governor after his election.

Other state convention actions not previously reported include:

Florida—commended the Plains church and elected Barney Burks, Jr., Mayor of Pensacola, president.

## Va. Baptists Commend Churches Recognizing Women Ministers

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (BP)—Virginia Baptists, meeting here in their statewide annual meeting, commended Virginia churches which have set aside sex role discrimination and have given official recognition to women as ordained ministers and deacons.

Elected "messengers" to the Virginia Baptist General Association also elected an Arlington, Va., lawyer as president and a pastor's wife as second vice president, and voted a record budget of \$7,250,000.

In what was described as a smooth convention, messengers approved reports of standing committees, almost without debate. But the report on the service of women, which, like the others, came as a commendation, rather than a recommendation, drew debate.

In the end, however, a spokesman said, messengers voted overwhelmingly to defeat a motion to delete the commendation on women.

Pointing out that the number of women graduates in Southern Baptist seminaries have doubled over the past two years, the commendation said, "The critical test of our churches is the ordination and the employment of women in positions comparable to men, believing there is neither male nor female in the church, where we are 'all one in Jesus Christ' (Gal. 3:20)."

"The awakening of conscience with respect to the personhood of women, including their identity, dignity, free-

dom and rights, may well be the work of the Holy Spirit in our time," the commendation said. "The challenge to Southern Baptist churches, where women comprise an estimated 50 percent of church membership, is acute now that women seek official recognition as deacons or deaconesses and as ordained ministers."

"Many women, whose training in our seminaries equips them for positions of leadership previously held exclusively by men, have a deep personal sense of calling as well as an ethical concern for the liberation which Christ offers," said the commendation, which praised churches who have set aside traditional patterns and have "given official recognition to women as ordained ministers and... (provided) opportunities for employment of women as pastors."

It said a survey of Virginia churches, which number about 1,500, drew 422 responses and indicated that "large numbers of women are serving in important leadership positions, some of which have been traditionally limited to men." It listed nine ministers, including associates 520 deacons or deaconesses, with the role of deaconess "in some instances... subordinate to that of deacon" and all concentrated in 57 churches; 15 home missionaries; 54 Sunday School directors, 352 church clerks, and 359 church secretaries.

Kenneth McFarlane Smith, an Arlington attorney, was elected president, and Mrs. Walter Bradley, wife of the pastor of Haymarket (Va.) Baptist Church, was elected second vice president.

## Kentucky Child Care Rates "Good Feelings"

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)—In action concerning its board of child care, which has been under fire for two years, Kentucky Baptists indicated "good feelings" toward the direction in which the board is now moving. It approved a motion calling for the board to delay expenditures for capital needs until a convention-appointed depth study committee completes its work, but at the same time several messengers spoke positively of the work of the board and the administration's responsiveness to earlier proposals.

The depth study committee was appointed in 1974, and at the 1975 convention messengers voted to retain it for three additional years to ensure their wishes would be implemented. The child care board is an agency of the convention.

The convention's record \$8.7 million budget, to take effect Sept. 1, 1977, includes an \$8 million Cooperative Program goal, of which 34 percent is destined for worldwide Southern Baptist causes.

Franklin Owen, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Convention, was unable to attend the sessions, due to a respiratory illness. The convention was held at Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, where Owen was pastor for 18 years before assuming the duties of convention executive secretary-treasurer.

Kentucky Baptists also sent telegrams to Jimmy Carter and his pastor, Bruce Edwards commending them for their stands opposing racism and to the Plains church offering prayers and encouragement.

## Touchton Succeeds Nicholas At HMB

ATLANTA (BP)—Judy Touchton, a Mississippian, has been named photo feature editor for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here, succeeding Tim Nicholas, who resigned in September to become associate editor of the Mississippi Baptist Record.

For the past five years, she has been photo librarian for the Home Mission Board. She also has written for a number of Southern Baptist publications, including Home Missions magazine.

She was reared in McComb, Miss., and attended Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. She is now completing requirements for a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Her husband, Ken, is a freelance photographer whose work has appeared in a number of Baptist publications.

## Missouri Baptists Debate Liberty, Meet Jointly With National Baptists

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (BP)—The Missouri Baptist Convention, in annual session here, considered resolutions on religious liberty and undesirable television programming, voted a record \$6.5 million budget, and met jointly with three black Baptist bodies. "Messengers" to the 142nd annual convention also elected Milton Morales, a Kansas City businessman, as president.

Religious liberty discussion occupied most of the messengers' attention in what observers called a "smooth and harmonious" convention. One proposal on it was referred for further study and two passed.

Referred for further study, after debate, was a bylaw recommendation which said: "No (state Baptist) edu-

cational agency shall participate in any program of public aid which requires non-discrimination on religious grounds in hiring administrators, faculty or staff or in admitting students or which requires isolation of religious from the rest of the school's program or which gives government the power to monitor courses or to take other actions to impose a secular standard of government."

But the messengers adopted a motion empowering its executive board to issue court suits in certain areas of religious liberty and adopted a resolution asking its agencies to "support this American principle (religious liberty) in all their relationships (with government entities)."

The convention also expressed appreciation for the recent defeat of a proposed state constitutional amendment which would have allowed public aid to parochial schools. The body thanked the 684,818 persons "who worked and voted against this threat to religious liberty" and noted that the defeat was the result of "the combined efforts of many religious, civic and professional organizations."

The meeting with three National (black) Baptist bodies came at two joint inspirational evening sessions, while the four bodies were holding simultaneous annual meetings. W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, and Gardner C. Taylor, pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, were featured speakers at the joint sessions.

The resolution on television programming supported the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Christian Life Commission's efforts to develop "appropriate and effective responses to undesirable television programming."

A convention spokesman noted that the election of Morales to the convention presidency is the first time since 1950 that the body has elected a layman to that post.

## S. S. Tops 1976 Projections

(Continued from page 1) indicate an increase of 1.4 percent over 1975, with a predicted total of 12,913,362 members. Last year's figure was 12,735,663.

Baptisms, however, dropped below 400,000 for the first time in five years, with reports indicating approximately 388,486 baptisms in 1976. Last year's total of 421,809 baptisms was the third highest number in SBC history.

Church Training also experienced a decrease in 1976, according to projections. Ongoing enrollment dropped 1.4 percent to 1,859,171, which is 26,406 less than the 1975 total. Figures are not available for the number of people in-

## Medical...

(Continued from page 1)

least three or four missionary doctors and as many national doctors are needed, according to Harold Hurst, the board's associate medical consultant. Both Hurst and Hughey along with Dr. Franklin T. Fowler, the board's medical consultant, participated in the meeting.

Hurst said currently there is only one missionary doctor in Gaza and that volunteers are being sought to serve there for the coming year until more medical missionaries are appointed. The Yemen hospital is also in need of medical personnel, specifically surgeons. Hospitals in Jordan and India are presently more adequately staffed.

As for spiritual effectiveness, the major areas of examination will be "witness, response and relationships."

Witness deals with such things as actual opportunities taken by the hospital staff to share their faith through chapel services, one-to-one witnessing and small in-hospital Bible studies.

Response deals with such things as changing attitudes of people toward Christianity, the beginning of churches and the number of baptisms.

Relationships to be evaluated are the hospital to other medical work in the country, to other missionary work in the country and to governments. Special attention will be given to the relationship of the hospital to the government as it facilitates freedom for other Baptist work. Medical work in the Middle East is often the only kind of witness allowed.

The appointment of fully-trained hospital chaplains was of concern among participants. In some cases the chaplain's duties would involve teach-

(Continued on page 3)

involved in New Member Training, Church Leader Training and short-term member training projects.

Projected Brotherhood ongoing enrollment jumped 1.7 percent over last year's figures, with an increase of 8,092 members, bringing its total to 484,094. Figures are not available for additional persons involved in short-term mission projects.

WMU recorded a slight gain, according to church reports, increasing its ongoing enrollment by 2,267 for a total of 1,135,854.

Church music's projected ongoing enrollment for 1976 is 1,375,268, which is 20,324 more than the 1975 total.

## Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



Toronto, Ont. (RNS)—A war on pornography has been launched by Archbishop Philip Pocock of Toronto, who urged Roman Catholics to boycott publications, theaters and places of business "which encourage the pornographic." Head of Canada's largest English-speaking diocese, which has approximately 1 million Catholics, the archbishop published a paid advertisement in all three Toronto newspapers. Called an "Open Letter of Concern," it denounced pornography as "gravely wrong" and urged all people, especially Catholics, to protest to theaters, neighborhood stores and politicians at every level of government.

Philadelphia (RNS)—With the permission of the U. S. government, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has become the first private U.S. organization to ship humanitarian aid to Democratic Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia) since the Communist takeover there in 1975. The Quaker agency has sent more than one ton of medicines, valued at \$12,000, to the Southeast Asian country to help alleviate a shortage of anti-malarial drugs.

New York (RNS)—Followers of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon plan to publish a daily newspaper in New York City. Staff recruitment is now going on, and news agencies have been contacted about providing service. To be called The News World, the newspaper will be a complete secular daily, not a religious publication.

Dublin (RNS)—More than 1,000 Protestants and Roman Catholics from both sides of the border joined hands and embraced on a new bridge over the River Boyne in Drogheda, about 30 miles north of here, in an appeal for peace in Northern Ireland.

Washington, D. C. (RNS)—As its part in attempting to correct the problem of dishonesty in America, the Religious Heritage of America is launching the first in a series of three-year programs which will involve business, education, media, politics, law and criminal justice, religion, youth and all other aspects of community life in a "searching self-examination and a sweeping crusade for personal and public honesty."

Plains, Ga. (RNS)—President-elect Jimmy Carter told fellow members of the men's Bible class at his church here that he would like to teach a Sunday school class in Washington, D. C. "I really would like to teach," he said, "but it's getting to be such a news event that it's difficult." Mr. Carter also said that he does not plan to invite clergy to preach in the White House, as did former President Richard Nixon. Rather, he indicated, he would like to attend Baptist services as "much as humanly possible."

Washington (BP)—In a brief, unsigned order, the U. S. Supreme Court let stand a ruling by the Missouri Supreme Court that a tuition grant program for the state's college students passes First Amendment requirements. The 8-1 action of the high court, with only Justice William J. Brennan voting to hear the case, means that more than 10,000 Missouri students will continue to receive state funds for use at the educational institutions of their choice.

Nashville (RNS)—A new report on independent higher education and public policy, prepared by a broad-based United Methodist commission, has concluded that government can develop programs to aid church-related institutions without violating the First Amendment to the Constitution. The United Methodist commission suggests several principles on which to base government policy towards independent educational institutions. These include the premises that such institutions perform an essential public service function, that government policies should assure the autonomy and viability of such institutions to preserve diversity in higher education, and that America's youth deserve a choice among institutions in higher education.

St. Paul, Minn. (RNS)—Thieves who stole seven priceless Islamic prayer rugs from a collection on display at Hamlin University, a United Methodist-related school here, have been warned that they may fall prey to a curse. One traditional fate for persons who steal church relics is that "they become demented," the owner said. Or the thief's mother or father may die; the thief himself is the last one stricken, so that he is forced to endure his relatives' misfortunes first.



## HMB Changing Of The Guard

Jan. 1, 1977, is a day for a changing of the guard at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. William G. Tanner (left) becomes executive director-treasurer, replacing Arthur S. Rutledge, who was administrator for 12 years. (HMB Photo by Kooten Benfield)

## Mississippi Baptist Sunday Schools Show 11,303 Gain

The Sunday Schools of Mississippi Baptist Churches show a net enrolment gain of 11,303 for the 1975-76 year, according to Rev. Bryant Cummings, director of the Sunday School Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. These figures are compared with last year's associational church letters. Total enrolment is 336,313. Associations indicating a net gain or loss are indicated below:

Gain or Loss	Ass'n.	75-76 Enr.	Gain or Loss	Ass'n.	75-76 Enr.	Gain or Loss	Ass'n.	75-76 Enr.
+ 79	Adams	3847	+ 4	Jeff Davis	2187	+ 14	Perry	1609
+ 96	Alcorn	4835	+ 473	Jones	11,225	- 169	Pike	5993
+ 141	Attala	3251	+ 30	Kemper	817	- 5	Pontotoc	4922
- 60	Benton	864	+ 176	Lafayette	3273	- 33	Prentiss	2573
+ 414	Bolivar	4045	+ 205	Lamar	2697	- 9	Quitman	1630
+ 59	Calhoun	4493	+ 195	Lauderdale	11,968	+ 639	Rankin	12,408
- 10	Carroll	1169	- 93	Lawrence	2747	+ 74	Riverside	3166
- 7	Chickasaw	2457	+ 226	Leake	2765	+ 35	Scott	4075
+ 68	Choctaw	1666	+ 600	Lebanon	10,432	+ 105	Sharkey-Issaquena	906
- 22	Clarke	2931	+ 153	Lee	10,246	+ 115	Simpson	5179
- 185	Clay	2805	- 112	Leflore	3689	- 27	Smith	2957
- 4	Copiah	4179	+ 44	Lincoln	6974	- 34	Sunflower	2752
+ 69	Covington	2366	+ 428	Lowndes	6378	- 52	Tallahatchie	1536
+ 1283	DeSoto	9907	+ 49	Marion	4410	+ 166	Tate	3110
+ 52	Franklin	1743	+ 446	Marshall	2806	- 17	Tippah	3365
+ 146	George	2369	+ 87	Mississippi	2660	+ 111	Tishomingo	2728
+ 52	Greene	1371	+ 106	Monroe	4350	+ 25	Union	839
+ 164	Grenada	2817	+ 95	Montgomery	2295	- 16	Union County	5506
+ 327	Gulf Coast	12,288	+ 21	Neshoba	3641	- 87	Walthall	2149
+ 1620	Hinds-Mad	39,822	+ 35	New Choctaw	735	+ 478	Warren	6277
+ 36	Holmes	1669	+ 148	Newton	3375	+ 726	Washington	7154
- 36	Humphreys	1082	+ 74	Noxubee	1030	- 5	Wayne	2322
+ 86	Itawamba	1700	+ 45	Okfuskee	4030	- 31	Webster	2562
+ 462	Jackson	12,124	+ 304	Panola	3611	+ 223	Winston	3853
- 36	Jasper	1796	+ 490	Pearl River	5967	+ 45	Yalobusha	2452
						- 183	Yazoo	2699



# Christmas Comes Here! To Ocean Springs!

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3  
Thursday, December 23, 1976

By Paul D. Aultman

Night had come! To Ocean Springs! Yet no different than the innumerable nights before. Across the bridge, the bay, beyond Biloxi, the sun began to sink. Like a great glob of gold, lower and lower it sank until the whole western sky was tinged with a golden glow. Then it all began to change rapidly—red and yellow and crimson and all manner of sunset hues. The Master Painter was at work! Quickly and skillfully with great sweeping strokes of His brush He painted the horizon until it seemed that the whole earth was gilt-edged with glory. And then night came!

The sky which had been filled with color became streaked with gray and after that came the dark. Gentle breezes whipped and skipped through the streets. Old oaks stately and resplendent in their cloak of green stirred restlessly as their branches were shaken by the wind. Here and there lights came on in the houses. In the heavens above those ageless stars appear—Orion and Pleiades—and to the unheard music of the spheres commenced their journey across the sky. In the East the full moon glowed like a huge white cameo tinged with yellow gold on the sky's full bosom, seeming to be pinned there with star clusters. Night had come to Ocean Springs.

At the First Baptist Church a group of young people were preparing to go carolling. As if in preparation for their performance the chimes from the lofty steeple had heralded across the town the good tidings about which the youth would sing. As they piled into their cars down the street came a young boy. He walked on crutches. "Wait for me," he called. "Oh, let's go," insisted a young girl. "We don't have room and, besides, he can't be getting in and out. He will foul up everything!" So with a shout and screech of tires the group was on its way. The crippled lad made his way to the steps of the church where he sat down dejectedly. He so very much wanted to go.

Not far away in a bar in town a man lurched up to the counter and asked for more drink. Problems and pressures were of such that he could only lose himself to liquor. "What's the use?" he mumbled to himself. "Who cares?" and the owner of the liquor store only smiled greedily as he took his money.

In a very elite and fashionable section of town where lived some of those who, judged by the world's standards, had it made, a man and his wife were preparing for the evening's entertainment. Nervously the wife put on her best, as she thought of the importance of the social hour. Contact with influential people, a promotion and prestige for her husband. The door slammed with a reverberating jar as the man stalked in from the patio angrily decrying some last minute mistake on the part of the servant. He gulped down a cocktail, glanced at his watch and hastened to the door to answer its ring.

Instead of the invited guests there stood a man shabbily dressed. "Could

you take my child to the hospital? My car is broken down and my baby is sick. Would you help me?" Guests were expected at any moment. Why on earth did this happen now?

Across town and at its edge was a little old frame shack. The people who lived there were poor. Could there, would there be any Christmas for three little chubby-cheeked tykes now tucked between faded and patched blankets? Torn between desire to do for little ones not yet experienced in life's hardness and the fact of no money, the mother stirred restlessly about the house. A miracle? Yes, only a miracle would bring Christmas to these.

Not only to these but to multitudes came this night! and how it came! Those watching television looked and listened as the announcer broke in with a news release—"Don't be afraid! For I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very night in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord." Across the air waves was wafted by radio the same news. "Glory to God in the highest heaven! And peace on earth to men with whom he is pleased!" As if caught up by the hand of a moving breeze a spirit which entered the captivated hearts moved like a shadow across the town.

There was a sudden squeal of brakes and the car carrying the youthful carolers came to a halt! "We have room for Sam. Why, he has the best voice of all. What made us ever think of leaving him behind?" So back to the church sped the group, and then with great exuberance they set forth to sound the glad news—with Sam singing louder and better than all. All felt—oh, so good!

The man lifted the glass to his lips and in so doing caught a glimpse of himself reflected from the liquid! "God," he said, "if you can help me I trust you to do so now." With that he set the glass down and stepped out into the brisk and refreshing night air with a determined set to his jaw! Deep inside he knew there was help, and he was on his way to claim it.

The couple who had planned for weeks for this night looked at one another. "... to you is born a Savior," they heard the man announce on television. "My car is out in the back," said the man as he began taking his coat out of the closet. "And here take this," said he as he tucked into the father's shirt pocket a folded bill with double numbers on it. "It will help with the medicine." His wife lovingly looked at her husband as the young man once looked at the gallant rescuer in tales of yesterday. Forgotten for the moment were guests, meals, and the importance of the meeting. How wonderful to be really needed and what a thrill to help.

There was a knock on the door of the little frame house. Undisturbed in childish, angelic slumber the three little kids slept on. The mother hastened to the door and drew back in surprise. There on the steps stood men bearing

baskets of food, and there were toys. "Oh God," inwardly said the woman as tears of gratitude trickled from her eyes. "This is the miracle." And all over Ocean Springs there was the hush and wonder of a night of miracles. For this was Christmas

night—marking the birth and gift of God's best—Jesus Christ! Here and there as people meditated on the night some tears stole down cheeks which had long been strangers to them. Thoughts of innocence and childhood happiness came back to those whose

hearts had long been hardened in life. Many a heart grew soft with the recollection of yesterday and how God loved them, and from many a breast came a sigh which was dangerously near to a prayer. Forgotten by all save children were the trinkets and trivials. All knew

that Emmanuel had come! God was with us! Here? In Ocean Springs? Yes, here in Ocean Springs! I know—I believe—won't you? Paul D. Aultman is pastor of First Baptist Church, Ocean Springs.



## This Tree Makes Music

The choir at Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, accompanied by its 35 piece orchestra, presented a

Singing Christmas Tree, Dec. 12. The musical performance was directed by music minister Bob Jones.

## Church's \$2 Million Gift Has Spending Limitations

Hebron Baptist Church near Pheba in Clay Association has inherited \$2 million, which is to be used to supplement the pastor's salary, brick the church and keep up the cemetery.

That, along with keeping up the church building and pastorage, appears to be the limit on the spending of the money inherited from a former member of the 130 member church.

The money came from sale of the 2,500 acre Mississippi Delta estate of Mrs. W. A. Dair who grew up in the northeast Mississippi area and was buried in the little church's cemetery.

The will specifies that \$300 per month is to go to the pastor's salary, above what the church already pays him.

The pastor, 26-year old Willard Crawley, a senior majoring in Bible and history at Blue Mountain College, said he didn't know what the church which was organized in 1851 would be able to do with the money other than spend it on the "preservation" of the church. "I don't know what that's going to be interpreted to mean," he said. "The church hasn't received any money yet," he said.

"We've read the will and the word 'preservation' is used all through it," said Crawley. "One person might think it means upkeep only; another might think it could include spending money on additions and support of missions."

Interest on the money would run upwards of \$200,000 per year. "This year's budget is \$8,000," said Crawley.

## Associations Urged To Conduct Missions Committee Meetings

Ray Grissett who directs the church extension phase of the Cooperative Missions Department of the Convention Board suggests that the local associations across the state use January 12, 13 and 14, 1977, for the scheduling of the "Church Missions Committee" training conferences.

These conferences are to be conducted by the local Directors of Missions and the Associational Chairman of Missions. These men were trained through special "training sessions" in various parts of the state in May, September and November of 1976.

The importance of the association has been highlighted a number of times in recent years within the associational structure. The Association Missions Committee, when properly trained, becomes more than a single objective-type committee, according to Grissett.

One phase of the multitype emphasis of the missions committee is the projected plan across the Southern Baptist Convention of the Associational Missions Committee personnel enlisting and training the Church Missions Committee Chairmen and/or all of the members of the committee.

## MC Establishes Education School

The Mississippi College Board of Trustees has approved the establishment of the School of Education at the institution, combining the Division of Education and Psychology and the Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation into one academic unit.

School status for the area of education will become effective on June 1, 1977, and will make this academic area one of the largest on campus. Dr. William B. (Bert) Thompson, currently chairman of the Division of Education and Psychology, will serve as dean of the new school.

The establishment of the School of Education as part of the Mississippi College program brings to five the number of separate schools within the institution. The college already has a Graduate School, School of Nursing, School of Law, and School of Business and Public Administration.

## Medical...

(Continued from page 2)

ing, counseling and pastoral work. At present, in the four hospitals, there are no professionally trained chaplains.

In the field of professional competency, the specialized training of doctors and other medical personnel is a specific item for evaluation. A major concern expressed was for the opportunity of missionary doctors and other medical personnel to upgrade and update their training. Audio tapes and seminars on the field and furlough training were among the suggestions.

The participants also discussed the need to update medical equipment, such as laboratories, X-ray and other special facilities.

"Available medical knowledge increases nearly 100 percent every five years," Hurst stated. "This was of great concern to professionals at the conference, especially missionary medical personnel." One doctor, one nurse and one administrator from each of the four hospitals were present.

Administrative and financial efficiency deals, among other things, with the cost and operation of the hospital. "The Foreign Mission Board subsidy to hospitals ranges from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per occupied bed per year," Hughey said. "This difference suggests that some evaluation is in order."

## Plan Now For 1977 Pastors' Conference

NEW ORLEANS — Several main facets of local church ministry will be the topics of lectures, sermons, discussions and workshops at the 14th Annual Pastor's Conference, July 11-15, 1977, at New Orleans Seminary. Studies in both the Old and New Testament as well as practical activities in the areas of Religious Education and Music will be highlights of the five day conference.

Daily lectures will be presented by Dr. Russell McIntire, vice-president for development at the seminary.

For reservations and further information contact Dr. T. J. DeLaughter, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana 70126.

## Clark Sets Date For Retirement As HMB Chaplain

William L. Clark, director of the Division of Chaplaincy of the Home Mission Board, has announced his retirement from that post for Dec. 31.

Clark is a native of the Hattiesburg area and plans to make his retirement home there. Retirement will be busy, however, as Clark plans to use the facilities he owns on several acres in Petal to raise horses.

The chaplain went to the Home Mission Board in 1970 after a career as an Air Force chaplain. On retirement from the Air Force, Clark held the rank of brigadier general and was deputy chief of chaplains. He spent 25 years as an Air Force chaplain.

At the Home Mission Board he was made associate director of the Division of the Chaplaincy in the area of military affairs in 1970. In 1975 he became director of the division.

Clark attended Pearl River Junior College at Poplarville and is a graduate of Mississippi College. He attended Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth and received the bachelor of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1948. In 1968 Mississippi College awarded him the doctor of divinity degree.

He taught in the Forest County School System from 1938 until 1941 and was pastor of the McLaurin Church at McLaurin during the same period. He was an Air Force Chaplain from 1941 until 1947 and returned to Mississippi to become pastor of Crosby Baptist Church in Crosby and Fair River Baptist Church in Brookhaven during 1947 and 1948.

From 1948 until 1951 he taught Old Testament at Jones County Junior College at Ellisville and during the same period was pastor of First Baptist Church, Ellisville. He returned to the Air Force in 1951. Just before his return to the Air Force he had been a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



## \$7 Million Mark Passed

Cooperative Gifts through the office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board passed the \$7 million mark on Dec. 15. The check that put the total receipts over the \$7 million figure was one for \$11,330 from First Church, Greenville. Each year for the past several years the Cooperative Program gifts have gone above an additional million dollars during the year.

The climb began following \$3 million in receipts in 1965. By 1975 the receipts reached \$6 million. Examining the Greenville check are, left to right, A. L. Nelson, Convention Board business manager; John Alexander, director of the Department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program promotion; and Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer.



## Joint Evangelism Sponsorship

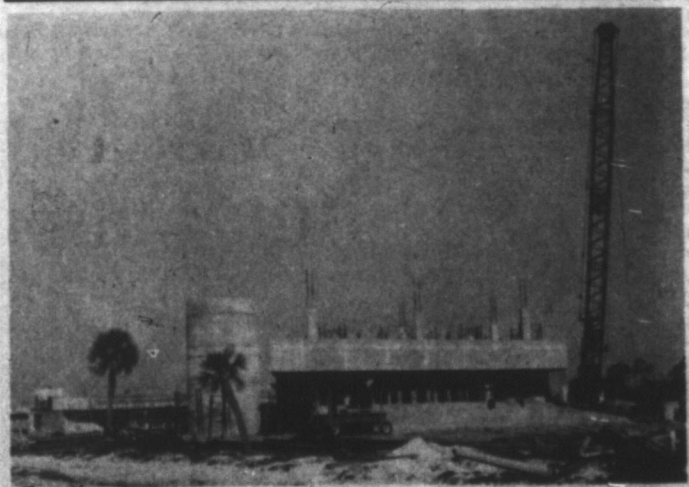
The 1977 Evangelism Conference Feb. 7-9 at First Church, Jackson and the Municipal Auditorium will sponsor jointly the Evangelism Department, the Brotherhood Department, and the Church Administration Department. Lay people are being invited to this conference particularly because of a joint effort by the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board and the Evangelism Section of

the Home Mission Board next year to strengthen the ministry of the deacon in evangelism. Discussing plans above are Leon Emery, consultant in Church Administration who will become director of the new Church Administration Department on Jan. 1; Elmer Howell, director of the Brotherhood Department; and Roy Collum, director of the Evangelism Department.

## Progress

At

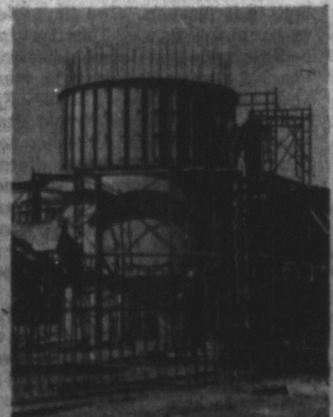
## Gulfshore



The entire scope of the main Gulfshore building is shown in this photo taken from the end of the construction.



The old gymnasium stands in complete destruction following a fire in September.



A close-up view shows men at work preparing forms for pouring concrete.







# By Airmail Or By Tradewinds, The Christmas Spirit Finds Africa

By Catherine Allen

Does it come by airmail? Or does it waft in via tradewinds with price inflated and style dated? Maybe it is secretly packed away in a shipping crate behind a four-year supply of jeans and tennis shoes in assorted sizes.

Somehow the Christmas spirit finds its way to Eastern and Southern Africa. Missionary families who have a foot on each side of the Atlantic indulge in a tiny dose of nostalgia while living in cultures much closer kin to Bethlehem than to the USA.

Just before Thanksgiving, Christmas cards begin to arrive—from last year. A missionary in Kenya pays 50 cents postage due to bail a battered greeting out of boat mail.

In Ethiopia a missionary homemaker sends her preschoolers outside while she selects a few toys from the supply secretly freighted from home after furlough two years ago. Of course the children stumbled into the hoards some time ago, but maybe they won't remember.

Missionaries from Angola, like refugees, wonder whether to buy Christmas decorations to replace the

ones left behind. "No, we'll be traveling. Decorations would be pointless." Happy to be safe together, they maneuver to be in the right place at the right time to return to their work.

In the dripping heat of Dar es Salaam, an angel stares incongruously from a Christmas card in a shop window. "We don't send cards, but we do try to send a letter to our friends in the states during the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. Sometimes a letter helps them to know how to pray for our witness here," explains the missionary from behind sunglasses.

In Rhodesia the Sanyati School Choir sings the "Hallelujah Chorus" above the hum of swarming termites. They sing rousing without benefit of organ, piano, or orchestra. They have learned the whole composition by rote from cassette tape. Even the director cannot read music. "Handel would be proud," says a missionary with eyes glistening. "Handel wouldn't believe it," says another.

Glittering street decorations in Salisbury, Rhodesia, proclaim the advent of Christmas well before December. Missionaries in sleeveless polyester and white shoes talk of taking their children to see the beautiful lights.

Acres of toys and tinsel crowd the superstores of

Johannesburg. Missionaries from other countries snatch moments from business trips for Christmas shopping. Cheese, tissue, grape juice, tape, jeans.

A husband dips into a small nestegg and drives a hard bargain for a fine necklace of African stone. He had seen his wife eyeing it. "I've never bought her a single nice present, and after all these years she deserves it," he explains.

Women plan holiday menus with ingenuity. Sweets without sugar in Ethiopia. Cakes without refined flour in Zambia. Wildebeest roast in Tanzania. Warthog or rabbit in Rhodesia. Gazelle in Botswana, with maybe a side dish of zebra. Turkey is unheard of. Ham is beyond price. Beef is scarce.

In capital cities the international community talks of Christmas potlucks and invites missionaries to pitch in.

In Kenya a woman harvests huge branches of poinsettia from the yard to make a centerpiece for church.

A missionary daddy negotiates with the customs agent to redeem a Christmas box from grandparents. "Sure it costs, but it's worth it for the children to know Grandma remembered."

Where shopping is possible, shopping is done with a check from relatives who have no idea how much the children have grown.

December is dawning, hot, green, steamy, raining.

The newspapers spread rumors of war; the daily Bible reading talks about peace on earth. The grapevine is ripe with tales of terror; the magazines from home talk of "Good News of a Great Joy." It is time for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Missionaries immersed in Africa bow their heads and pray for fellow-workers. They pray for churches in the United States who are making crucial decisions about mission support.

Then, with selfless awareness of a task greater than their own, they add their own substance into the widening stream known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Some participate along with their struggling new churches. Some send a check to the home church. Some pool resources with others in their mission and send astounding amounts to the home office in Richmond. Children collect their coins until they meet other MKs at a mission meeting, when the offering will be officially taken.

After a luxurious moment on the giving end, they resume posts on the receiving end, and with pulpit or plow, stethoscope or microphone, school book or Bible, they again announce that there is Good News of a Great Joy. Because of them and of those who sent them Christmas dawns anew in Africa.

## A Real Visit From Santa Claus . . .

By Elby O. Gordon

It was Christmas Eve. Four-year-old Nell was standing with her small white face pressed against the windowpane watching the snow falling silently, and softly covering the earth with a mantle of white. Fast the people were hurrying home from their places of business.

In many homes could be seen the Christmas trees all dressed and decked and shining with many colored lights, yes, dressed and decked for the happy children on the morrow. At length Nell turned to her mother and asked: "Mother, if it keeps on snowing can Santa Claus find his way here?"

The mother was thinking of a long white mound the snow was making in a lonely churchyard where Nell's father had been laid two years before. After a pause the mother replied: "Yes, he

will find his way here." "Will he bring me that big baby doll that can open and shut its eyes?" asked Nell with eager expectation.

Four-year-old Nell and six-year-old Robert were the only children. The mother was very poor. She was working hard to give the children food, clothing, and shelter. She had no money and knew there could be no baby doll. After a pause the mother answered: "Perhaps, if he has not given them all away before he gets here."

"I hope Santa will not forget me," exclaimed Nell with excitement.

John Winfield sat in his office. He was thinking of the past. Once again he was a barefoot boy back among the old New Hampshire hills. Now his hair was tinged with silver, John Winfield was a rich man but he was not happy. His mind kept going back to his boyhood days. He had never married.

Once he had a sweetheart but in his insatiable desire for gold he had cast the idea of love and marriage aside. A youthful lover—a sweetheart—a broken-hearted brown-eyed girl, was sleeping in the old country church way back among the hills. He had no people. His mother had passed away years ago.

He had been fervent in spirit and not slothful in business—and now he was a rich man, but his money seemed to mock him. There was a haunting loneliness about his life that nothing could ever fill.

It was quitting time, John decided he would walk down among the open stores and toy shops and see the happy children. Putting on his thick overcoat, he closed his office. "A Merry Christmas to you," said the old janitor. "Same to you," replied John, placing a bill in the old man's hand, the size

making the old fellow's eyes sparkle.

John wandered among the stores and watched the happy people. He stood in front of a candy store and gazed at the striped candy in the window. Fifty years before as a barefoot boy he had gazed into the same kind of store and wished for a few pennies.

Now he would have given everything he possessed to be that boy again. He passed by a house and saw a small white face pressed against a windowpane and heard a child ask if Santa Claus would come. This gave him an idea. It was a wonderful idea. There were many poor families in the city who would not receive a visit from Santa. Stepping into a nearby store, he gave some quick orders. Delivery wagons and trucks were kept busy all night. The next morning there was great rejoicing among the poor of the city. They had received a real visit

from Santa Claus.

"He did, he did, he did bring me that big baby doll!"

"Whoop!" shouted Robert "and here is an air rifle, too."

"And here's a basket of groceries too," said the mother with joyful tears.

John Winfield was happier than he had been for many a day.

### Groner Honored By Memphis Civitans

Frank Groner, administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, has been named the Outstanding Citizen of 1976 in Memphis by the Downtown Civitan Club of the city.

Baptist Hospital is a 1,900-bed facility that has become the world's largest private hospital. It is supported by the state conventions of Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

Baptist Memorial has more Neurosurgical admissions than any other hospital in the nation and has the second largest volume of orthopedic admissions.



### Mr. and Miss Carey College Are Named

By popular vote of the student body each year two young people at William Carey College are selected as Mr. and Miss Carey. The sponsoring Crusader annual staff chose to reveal the names this year at Christmas. Al Fike of Leakesville and Joanne Myrick of Laurel share the delight of their honor as they join in the spirit of Christmas. He is a ministerial student and she is a missions volunteer.

### Bob Garrett Is One Reason!

By W. C. Fields

In the remote bush country of Rhodesia, Dr. Robert Garrett is serving the cause of Christ in a ministry of healing, teaching and preaching. A big man physically, a fine physician, Dr. Garrett operates 13 clinics around the region of a jumping off place called Sesame.

I watched Bob Garrett examine sick people, give shots, pull teeth, make arrangements to send one woman on the mission plane to the Baptist Hospital at Sanyati, and heard him counsel the people.

He is working at one of those "utmost parts of the earth" where the Gospel is being preached effectively by deed as well as word. All of us Southern Baptists had a part in placing him and his fine attractive family at this fascinating frontier.

Bob Garrett is one of the reasons why it is such a privilege to support the Cooperative Program with the tithe throughout the year, and then give extra through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. And there are 2,600 other persons who are also reasons for faithful support of Southern Baptist missionary endeavors in 82 countries.

These missionaries are faithful on their end of the line. We must be faithful on our end!

old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke; and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

By Henry Van Dyke

## Keeping Christmas

He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord. — Romans, XIV: 6.

It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background and your

duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing

### Texas Asks Landes

#### For Two More Years

DALLAS (BP) — Texas Baptist leaders, meeting here, called on their executive director to serve two additional years to carry out his plan for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with all Texans.

The 192-member executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas also pledged prayer support for that plan — "Good News Texas," a multimedia evangelistic campaign scheduled for early 1977.

James H. Landes, the man who conceived this campaign while serving as executive director of Texas' two million Southern Baptists, was asked to serve two years beyond his normal retirement at the end of 1977.

Landes, in his first three years as executive director, has expressed deep concern for the 4.7 million Texans who are not members of any church. About a year ago he presented plans for television, radio, newspaper, and billboard promotion to tell all Texans of God's love.

Texas Baptists will spend more than \$1 million for the multimedia presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The state has been divided into three regions for the campaign, to be held Feb. 20-March 20 in North Texas, March 5-April 3 in South Texas, and March 27-April 24 in West Texas.

### "The Whale. . ." To Be On TV The Week Following Christmas

"The Whale that Came to Mississippi," the 30-minute movie about the work and impact of Baptists in Mississippi, will be shown on seven television outlets during the week following Christmas. The stations to be showing the movie and the times of the showings are listed below.

The film was first shown during the Mississippi Baptist Convention of 1975 and then presented on television during Christmas of last year. The interest in the film was great enough that it was felt that it should be shown again this year, according to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

It is available on a regular basis to be shown in churches through the offices of the directors of association missions.

Biloxi	WLOX/Ch 13	Thursday, 12/30	7:30 PM
Columbus	WCBI/Ch 4	Tuesday, 12/28	8:30 PM
Greenwood	WABG/Ch 6	Tuesday, 12/28	7:30 PM
Hattiesburg	WDAM/Ch 7	Wednesday, 12/29	7:00 PM
Jackson	WAPT/Ch 16	Thursday, 12/30	7:30 PM
Meridian	WHTV/Ch 24	Thursday, 12/30	7:00 PM
Tupelo	WTWV/Ch 9	Thursday, 12/30	7:00 PM
or			
		Friday, 12/31	7:30 PM



Scenes from the filming of "The Whale That Came To Mississippi."



# Around The World— East Africa

By David R. Grant

**Editor's Note:**  
Dr. David R. Grant, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist church in Jackson and past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, recently completed an around-the-world trip for the purpose of missions awareness. In a series of articles Dr. Grant is discussing his trip.

It took a 40-hour wait and flight to get from Ibadan, Nigeria, to Nairobi, Kenya. About 15 of these hours were spent at the airport in Lagos. This was Father's Day, but I had the good fortune of having my son, one of my three children, there. Food and conveniences were something to be desired, but that was not important.

We landed at the Entebbe, Uganda, airport. This is the airport where the famous Israeli rescue took place shortly after we were there.

Sam Bethea, son of Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Bethea, met us at the airport in Nairobi. This city reminds me very much of San Francisco. It is modern, and hilly. I don't think I have ever seen more skyscrapers going up at one time in one city as in Nairobi. It is a fabulous city. We stayed there longer than any other one place as the guest of the Bethas.

While there we attended two differ-

ent churches. One was an international church and the other was local. I spoke to a small group on one Sunday night in the local church, composed mostly of missionaries. We also visited the communication center, publication house, and a school.

One of the most beautiful pieces of property I have ever seen is Camp Brackenhurst. It was an old hotel that Baptists were able to purchase for a rather low cost, and it is now a very valuable piece of property. It is where they hold language school, have mission meetings, and have other meetings of various kinds. It has all the facilities that are needed for such a piece of property.

In addition to the church services we attended, we were also privileged to attend a Bible study with some missionaries in a home. Southern Baptists have an admirable array of missionaries in Nairobi. They are dedicated, competent, and friendly.

James Hampton, missionary to Tanzania, picked us up in his car in Nairobi, Kenya, and drove us to Arusha, Tanzania. This was some four or five hours trip, but it gave us an opportunity to see some country in that area. We spent the night in his home and it was there I came to realize how slow anything but airmail is to our overseas friends. He read the scripture out of *Open Windows* for the morn-

ing devotional and was reading from the December issue in June.

The next morning, we toured our Baptist seminary in Arusha and visited with several missionaries. We discussed needs there and this was the seminary that needed books for their library. Broadmoor Baptist Church has purchased every book they requested. We also learned of a group of Christians some several hundred miles from any missionary. This group had baptized 1,983 people in two years. They were requesting \$12,000 for a church building.

One side trip we made was while we were in Tanzania. James took a day off, borrowed a land rover, and drove us over a national park. This is where we saw big game of just about every kind.

Back in Nairobi we discovered firsthand what kind of people we have as missionaries. Through an error on our part, we missed our plane that was supposed to have taken us to Cairo, Egypt. This necessitated our staying in Nairobi from Friday to Monday longer than we had planned. The Bethas were most gracious and made us feel welcomed. Others put their heads together and helped us with a new schedule. We were embarrassed in our error, but were able to get new dimensions of people as a result.

At the present time, Kenya and Tanzania are in the same convention; but they will be divided in 1978, I believe, into two different conventions. Our work there is only about 20 years old compared to over 100 years in Nigeria. It is evident that our Lord is doing an encouraging work there. The churches and other institutions are alive and growing. The witness is effective. The personnel is some of the best in the world. New churches are being organized. In my opinion, we shall hear of great things in East Africa in the years to come.

Political unrest and disturbances are slowing the work in some of the other countries of East Africa, but our Lord is capable of dealing with that, too.

Since our return, we have heard of the death of one missionary whom we visited. His family needs our prayers. It is the Dallas Bateman Family.

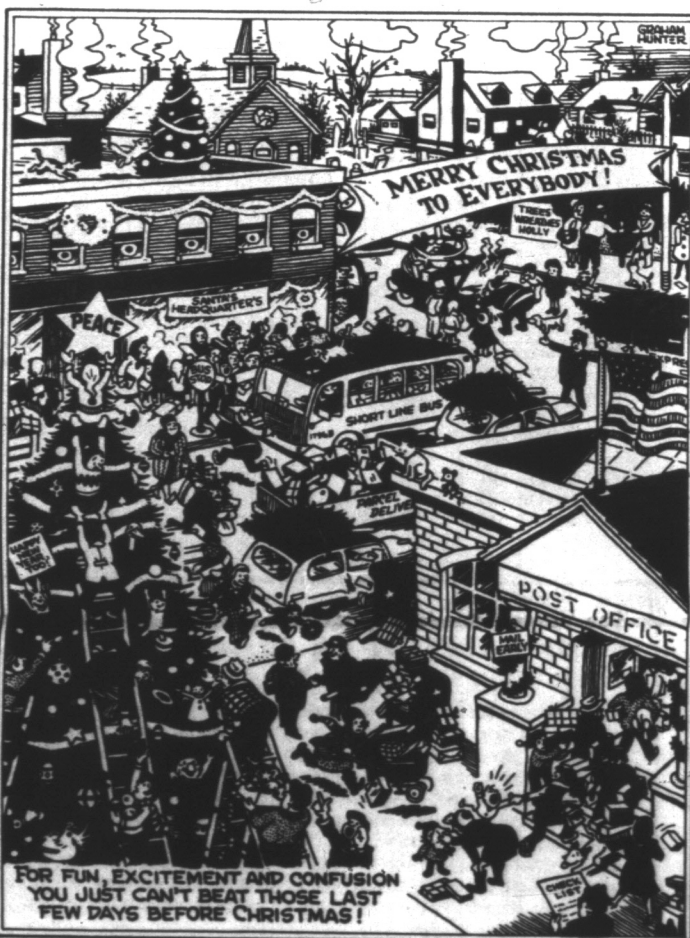
By the way, Nairobi was the first place I was able to get any clothes and personal things after losing my suitcase!

Next time I shall discuss India.

There was a Man who dwelt in the East centuries ago and now I cannot look at a sheep or a sparrow, a lily or a cornfield, a raven or a sunset, a vineyard or a mountain without thinking of Him.

—Gilbert Keith Chesterton

## HOMETOWN AMERICA



## A Boy And A Treasure To Be Kept

By Dorothy Hughes

"Hi, teacher! I'm back again. Can I start making a seed picture today? Jimmy's been tellin' me about them."

"Sure can, Tommy. Here, you look through the patterns and pick out one while I get the supplies."

Tommy is the child of an unwed teen-age mother. During his six years, she has dragged him from one place to another while she works at anything from barmaid to roughneck in the oil fields. But periodically Tommy is back at his Grandmother's for a few weeks or months. Jimmy is his uncle, only a few years older.

Soon Tommy and twelve other children were at work on two small tables and a bit of floor space. The little one room chapel was built by Wyoming pioneers as a place for sprinklings, weddings and funerals. But no organized church has ever existed in the small community of 200.

As I moved among the children, we talked about the Bible stories. The story of Jesus' birth, childhood, the trip to the temple—all were new and fresh to this class. Several were filling Tommy in on the things he had missed and helping him learn the memory verse, "God... loved us and sent his son."

Tommy began spreading glue on a wooden square where he had traced a water pitcher. He outlined the bottom with a row of yellow pop corn, then began filling in with brown buck wheat.

"This is the kind of pitcher that Jesus may have taken to the well for water when he was a boy your age. The Bible tells us that he obeyed his mother and Joseph," I told Tommy.

"I know, Jimmy already told me about it. I wonder if Jesus ever dropped a jar and broke it? Did his mother beat him if he did?"

Three weeks later Tommy came running in ahead of the others. "I have to finish my picture today. Me and Mother are leaving. Jimmy can help me. He's through with his."

As Tommy put the last seeds in, I picked up the can of varnish. "Bring it outside and we will spray it. I think it will be dry enough for you to take home

after the Bible story."

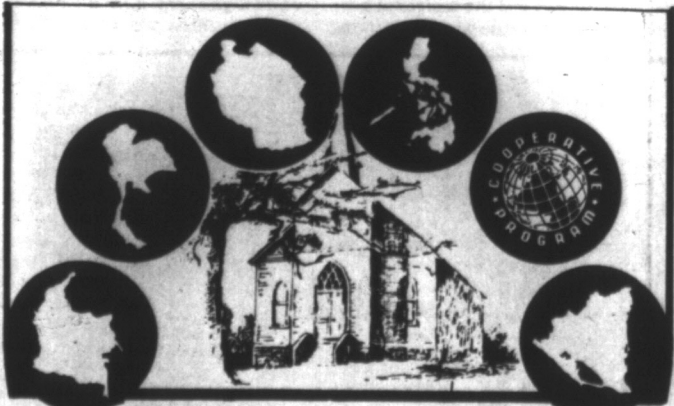
"O, I can't take it home. I told Mother about it, but she says we have too much to move around now."

I stared at Tommy in disbelief. "Can't take it home! Surely your mother wants to see it, Tommy."

"Nope, she said to leave it here."

"But—couldn't you leave it at your Grandmother's? Then you can see it when you come back."

No, Grandma says she has too many kids and their stuff around now. But I'm glad I got to make it—gluing all those beans and stuff on was fun. And I'll remember about Jesus and his mother too, whenever I see a water pitcher."



## Our Church...

## ...And The Cooperative Program

By Gordon H. Sansing, Pastor  
First, Pontotoc

Our church believes in and supports the Cooperative Program. At present, 19 percent of our church budget receipts are given through the Cooperative Program. The budget of our church has increased because of needs, vision, and inflation, and the people of our church have responded in faithfulness to God by giving of their tithes and offerings.

We believe that God honors the faithfulness of His people and as we are faithful with our total lives, God will

We sprayed the varnish and stood back to admire the finished picture.

"Gee, that varnish makes it shiney. Ain't it purty? I'm glad I finished it."

I waved good-bye as the last child went round the bend of the road. When I turned to go inside, Tommy's picture lay on the board walk.

I took it inside and leaned it on the window sill. As I looked at it, I heard again a small voice:

"I can't take it home... ain't it purty... I'm glad I finished it."

It made me think of another mother and her boy. Such a very different mother who treasured things in her heart.



## Our Church...

## ...And The Cooperative Program

continue to lead and bless His church. The Cooperative Program is one of many avenues of outreach by the First Baptist Church. Our goal, like the goal of other churches, is to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This is our purpose as we minister locally and to all the world. We believe in the Cooperative Program because it is one of the means of sharing the good news of God in our world.

First Church, Pontotoc, gave \$44.44 per member through the Cooperative Program last year for a total of \$36,642.86 as of September 27, 1976.



A cocoon of ice and snow encases a Pennsylvania pasture where, in warmer months, the grass grows green and livestock graze. (RNS Photo by Richard Patrick)

## Seminar Set For Long Range Work

Jack Riddlehoover, pastor of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church, Abilene, Tex., will be the featured speaker during a church long-range planning seminar Feb. 21 to 23 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

The seminar will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday and have afternoon and evening sessions on Monday, morning and afternoon sessions on Tuesday, and a morning session on Wednesday.

It will be sponsored by the newly-formed Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Leon Emery, church administration consultant, will become the director of the department when it is formed Jan. 1.

Riddlehoover and Emery will be program personalities along with Truman Brown, Jr., consultant in the Church Administration Department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

This will be one of nine such conferences to be held across the nation next year.

There will be a registration fee of \$30, which will be refundable prior to two weeks before the conference.

## Mrs. Odle's Mother Dies In Jackson

Mrs. L. R. Riley, 88, mother of Mrs. Joe T. Odle, died Saturday afternoon at Rankin General Hospital. She had been ill for some time.

Prayer services were held on Sunday afternoon at Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home in Jackson, and then the body was transported to Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, Ky., for burial. Services were Tuesday morning in Kentucky.

Mrs. Riley had been a resident of Jackson for six years. Her husband preceded her in death in August of 1975. He was a Baptist pastor in Mayfield before retiring and moving to Jackson.

The funeral service in Mayfield was at Highpoint Baptist Church, and bu-

rial was in the Highland Park Cemetery.

Mrs. Odle is the wife of Joe T. Odle, who was editor of the Baptist Record for 17 years before retiring in August of this year. He was also associate executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and pastor of the First Baptist Church in both Gulfport and Crystal Springs.

Other survivors include a granddaughter, Mrs. Sarah Maddox, and two great-grandchildren of Memphis and a brother, Curtis Kendall of Birmingham.

Joe Triplett, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, conducted the prayer service in Jackson, which was attended by a number of friends.

## Prosecutor Appeals Decision

(Continued from page 1)

The Petersons were involved in an accident with a drunken driver in a stolen vehicle so no charges were filed against them. Mrs. Peterson was the only person injured. She sustained cracked ribs, a deflated lung and numerous bruises.

Everhart had safely stopped behind a disabled bus on an icy highway when his accident occurred. A truck struck his vehicle and pushed it into the side of the disabled bus. The impact shook up the family but no one was injured.

In reflection on these accidents, Hays said, "Driving in countries overseas is hazardous. With the hundreds of cars we have around the world and the thousands of miles we drive a year, we have been most fortunate."

### OLD BIBLES REBOUND

A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.

"Internationally known specialists"

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.**

Box 305-C - Greenwood Miss 38970

### CHURCH STEEPLES

• 10 YEARS MORE EXPERIENCE • 100% OF BUILDS

• COMPLETE CATALOGUE OF BLUEPRINTS

• 10 YEAR WARRANTY • 10-PLC

• STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

• "REPAIR" CRACKED LUMI

• LUMI CRACKS

• BAPTISTAL POOLS

Glasstech P.O. Box 135

Roswell, Ga. 30075



Jackson, Miss.

## RUBBER STAMPS

STAMP PADS

STAMP PAD INK

DIXIE RUBBER STAMP & SEAL CO.

Since 1928

P. O. Box 202/514 E. Amite

Jackson, Ms. 39205

Phone (601) 948-1851

For COLDs take 666

JANUARY, 1977

<b>Sunday School</b>	Youth emphasis in Sunday School during 1977. A special leaflet "Youth Division Emphasis 1976-77" is available to provide a number of special events and activities for Youth during 1977. Write the Sunday School Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 for this leaflet.  Jan. 7—January Bible Study Week in the churches. Romans is the suggested Adult Bible study book. Special Resources and materials are available in the Baptist Book Store. Age-group studies listed in "Church Study Course catalog 1976-77." Special Resource and promotion help in the December, 1976 issue of OUTREACH magazine.  Jan. 30—Y-High Days—Quarterly high attendance emphases to recognize units in the Youth Division which reach their goals.
<b>Church Training</b>	CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL AND YOUTH BIBLE DRILL. Churches should begin in January (certainly not later than February) to work on the Children's Bible Drill and Youth Bible Drill. Leaflets are available from the Church Training Department. Personal consultation can be arranged for those not conversant with the drills.
<b>Church Music</b>	Men and Boys Choir and/or Choir Exchange Program. A plan to boost choir enrollment and attendance for the new year through a stated program of competition between two church choirs and culminating in an exchange concert and shared fellowship.  An effort to support Baptist Men's Day, Jan. 23, by involving laymen in music leadership, including song leading, accompanying, and special music (men and boys' choir, quartet, and/or men's chorus).  HYMN OF THE MONTH: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise," page 32, New Hymnal.
<b>Brotherhood</b>	Jan. 23 Baptist Men's Day (Use insert in the January-March issue of "Brotherhood Builder." Material from the Brotherhood Commission or Brotherhood Department.)
<b>Evangelism</b>	Jan. 9 Witness Commitment Day (Full information and Witness Commitment Cards provided by Evangelism Department, Jackson.)
<b>Church Administration</b>	Jan. 8-14 Deacon Emphasis Week Involvement of deacons in specified training and service projects.  Purpose: to involve deacons in personal commitment and improvements.  Resource: Deacon Emphasis Week pamphlet from church administration department, MBCB.
<b>Christian Action Commission</b>	Lead Christian Action Committee or Church Council to plan priority items involving Christian Action for 1977. Write the Christian Action Commission, Baptist Building, Jackson, for committee guidelines.
<b>Baptist Foundation</b>	"Make Your Will Month." Tracts, articles and bulletin inserts are available from Mississippi Baptist Foundation, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



## Names In The News



Mr. and Mrs. Stanley D. Clark, missionaries to Argentina, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 1735 Jackson, Alexandria, La. 71301). Before they were appointed in 1962, he was pastor of Shady Grove Church, near Ruth, Miss.

Clark and Elsie McMurray of First Church, Pascagoula, have been presented a family portrait by the members. It recognizes the pastor on his 15th anniversary at the church. The McMurrays have two sons, David and John, who are medical students at the University of Mississippi Medical School at Jackson, and two daughters, Janet and Susan, who are students at Pascagoula High School.

John and Kathy McNair, missionaries, may now be addressed at Lopez de Hoyos 295, 1<sup>st</sup> A, Madrid, 33, Spain. They are Mississippians who transferred to Spain from India.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Schooler, missionaries to South West Africa, may be addressed at P. O. Box 836, Tsumeb 9260, South West Africa.



Siloam Church, West Point, has recognized five persons who have perfect attendance records in Sunday School for more than five years. They are, left to right above: Edmond B. Reid, Jr., 15 years; Mrs. E. B. Reid, Jr., 15 years; Mrs. Milton Benson, six years; Ricky Benson, six years; and Butch White, 14 years.

B. Z. Byrd has moved from New Black Jack Church, Philadelphia, in Neshoba County, to the pastorate of Clear Creek Church, Route 1, Shubuta, in Wayne County.

Dr. Raymond C. Wilson, Executive Director of Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, celebrated 30 years of service with that institution Dec. 10. A service pin presentation ceremony and reception at the Hospital marked the event. The President of the Board of Directors, Earl Little, presented Dr. Wilson with a 30 year service pin and congratulated him on the remarkable progress the Hospital has made under his leadership.

John Stevens, pastor of Brewer Church, has been elected president of the North Mississippi Baptist Pastors Conference.



The conference meets monthly in churches of a twelve-county area in north Mississippi. Charles Stubblefield of Ecru Church will serve as vice-president and John Causey of First Church, Corinth will continue to serve as secretary-treasurer.

Roy O. McClain has accepted a call to be pastor of First Church, Orangeburg, S. C., a church where he was previously pastor 26 years ago. McClain, who was president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference in 1962, was pastor of the Orangeburg church, 1950-53. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, for 17 years, 1953-1970.

Charles and Indy Whitten, missionaries, will be on furlough in the United States from December 20, 1976, to August 20, 1977. After that they will return to Madrid, Spain. Their address while on furlough will be 1625 Easy Street, Yazoo City, MS 39194 (phone 601-746-6138).

Ron Fitts, son of Ulvie Fitts, assistant pastor of Harrisburg, Tupelo, was recently licensed to preach at Harrisburg. Robert L. Hamblin is pastor. Ron graduated from Miss. State and has been studying toward a master of divinity degree at New Orleans Seminary. He may be contacted by churches at 4601-Seminary Pl. No. 103, New Orleans, La. 70126 or (504) 288-8817.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie G. Dunaway Jr., missionaries to Rhodesia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: PB 735, Gatooma, Rhodesia).

David Holt has accepted the call to be pastor of Pulaski Church, Scott County. He and his wife and three children are now living in the pastorate there. Holt was in evangelism before accepting this church. He and his wife are both natives of Jackson. He attended Clarke and Mississippi College.

Locust Street Church, McComb, has called Clifton Williams as minister of music and youth. He is a graduate of Southwest Mississippi College and Mississippi College. He has served as minister of music and youth in various churches in Lincoln and Pike Counties. He goes from the Friendship Church. He is married to the former Johnnie Reeves. They have two daughters, Denise and Sheryl. Robert L. Dunn is Locust Street pastor.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald C. Davis, missionaries to the Philippines, may be addressed at P. O. Box 278, Gagalayan de Oro City, Philippines 8401.



### Conehatta Dedicates Picnic "Tabernacle"

Conehatta Church recently observed a dedication and welcome day. A new church bus (center) was dedicated, as was a "tabernacle" used for outdoor socials (top photo). The tabernacle was constructed from timbers used in building the First Baptist church in Conehatta. Also Keith Bennett (bottom photo, left), a music student at Clarke College who has been called as minister of music, was given a formal welcome to the church by the pastor, Tommy Titus (bottom photo, right).

### College Hill Pastor Dies

Binford Truett Nash died on December 9 after three weeks of illness following a heart attack. He was pastor of College Hill Church, Oxford. Ordained three years ago he had been pastor of this church over two and one-half years.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Nash of Route 2, Brandon.

His mother has contributed the following, in memory of her son:

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says: "There! She's gone."

Gone where? Gone from my sight—that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her; and just at the moment when some one at my side says, "There! She's gone," there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "There she comes!" And that is Life! Beyond the partings and the pains. Beyond the sighing and the tears, How beautiful to be with God Through all the endless, blessed years.

### Convention Tapes Are Available

Cassette tapes of the 1976 Mississippi Baptist Convention are available. You may obtain them by writing Wayne Long Taping Service, P. O. Box 145, Lambert, Ms. 38643. The prices are as follows:

Messages listed below are \$3.00 each: James Richardson, "Triumphphant? You Bet!"; William Evans, "A Triumphphant Church... Following"; Ralph Smith, "A Triumphphant Church... More Than Conqueror"; John Claypool, "A Triumphphant Church... Caring"; Carolyn Weatherford, "A Triumphphant Church... Sharing"; Lewis Myers, Jr., "A Triumphphant Church... Sharing"; Edwin Young, "A Triumphphant Church... Claiming"; Joe Odle, "Open Doors to Pleasant Paths"; James Ballard, "Using Lay Renewal"; Jamall Badry, "Special Music"; Grady Cothen, "What Does It Mean To Be Born Again?"

Messages listed below are two for \$3.00 (two on one tape): S. A. Adkins, "A Triumphphant Church... Leading"; Mel Craft, "A Triumphphant Church... Transforming"; Howard Spell, "A Triumphphant Church... Teaching"; David Pratt, "A Triumphphant Church... Caring"; James Fancher, "A Triumphphant Church... Sharing"; James Hurt, "A Triumphphant Church... Claiming."

### Is Your Minister Of Music In The Singing Churchmen?

Encourage him to join now while we are recruiting new members! As a church, offer to pay his membership and music folder fee of \$10.00.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
The Church Music Department  
P. O. Box 530  
Jackson, Ms. 39205

### Attala Baptists Renovate, Hold Open House

The Attala Baptist Association held "Open House" at the newly renovated Attala Baptist Building on Sunday, November 28, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. The extensive renovation program included construction of a large assembly room, installation of a central heating and air-conditioning system, kitchen, suspended ceiling, insulation for the entire building, new lighting, new carpet, bookshelves and cabinets. Eugene Bailey is moderator and Dr. W. Levon Moore is director of missions.

### White Oak Pays Tribute To Late Deacon Canterbury

Following the death of Earl B. Canterbury, deacon at White Oak Church, the church adopted a resolution paying tribute to his life.

The resolution recognized the contributions that Mr. Canterbury made to his church, community, and county. In part, it stated, "Earl Canterbury was a family man, a father and husband who loved his home and worked to make it a Christian home, thus fulfilling the New Testament requirements for the office of deacon. He provided spiritual depth and qualities of Christian leadership in the capacity of deacon and deacon chairman, along with insight acquired with years of dedicated service. He served the church well in critical times."



### AN INVITATION

The Boyce Bible School offers a program especially for those Southern Baptist pastors and those recently called to the ministry who have not had the chance to get college or seminary training. We employ teachers who have warmth and concern for each student, plus a solid foundation in and a love for the Word of God and the work of the local church. Call (1-800-626-5525 Toll Free)

Boyce Bible School  
2801 Lexington Road  
Louisville, Ky., 40206  
A division of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

## THE ATLANTA CHURCH & FAMILY FORUMS CAN HELP YOU STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY LIFE OF YOUR CHURCH.

There is something you and your church can do to help marriages and families.

The CHURCH & FAMILY Forum in Atlanta could well be the most significant opportunity you will have in the next year to help relationships and homes in your church.

The CHURCH & FAMILY Forum takes up where the Congress on the Family left off—practical help for Christian families and marriages—content-planned so that you can use it in your own church programs.

These are "share-able" conferences. They are planned so that you and others from your church will have the experiences and materials to be catalysts in your own church for strengthening relationships. Family specialists from around the country will work with you to develop a strategy for building an effective family enrichment program. They will help your church minister to people where they need help most—in their homes.

The conference in your area will equip you and your church to help others—

- enhance their communication and resolve conflicts
- experience sexual fulfillment in their marriages
- build self-esteem in their families
- encourage family unity
- develop a positive identity as singles
- deal with many practical issues unique to singles

- Philadelphia—January 25-28/77
- Atlanta—February 8-11
- Dallas—March 1-4
- Pasadena—March 29-April 1
- Chicago—April 12-15
- Seattle—May 3-6
- Toronto—September 6-9
- Minneapolis—October 11-14



The most far-reaching social problem in our generation is the decay of the family. Social scientists are now becoming concerned and predict that in the next decade every element of our society must be involved in a family strengthening effort. This is good news—but the spiritual quality of the family must not be overlooked.

The Continental Congress on the Family in 1975 revealed how churches of all denominations share this increasing concern and are beginning to lead the way in new strategies to help the greatest number of couples, parents and singles. I am delighted to see a significant follow-up to their national congress as thousands of pastors and leaders in every part of the continent can be trained to expand their own church family life programs.

Family Concern's CHURCH & FAMILY Forums are a fresh, innovative approach and will provide the practical help churches need. It is my prayer that they might be a catalyst for a significant family strengthening movement in North America.

Billy Graham

## CHURCH & FAMILY FORUM

Clip and mail this coupon today for complete information

Yes, please send me complete information on the CHURCH & FAMILY Forum near me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH & FAMILY  
P.O. BOX 14565 OKLAHOMA NE 80184

An outreach of Family Concern Inc.  
The continuation of the Continental Congress on the Family



A Woman's World Reaches For  
**Beyond the Ironing Board**  
Wilda Fancher

Things I like about Christmas: Cards from all around, cooking special foods, competence of love, carols, children at home, carmel cake, coconut cake.

Hiding gifts, hanging ornaments on the tree, hearing friends drive up, hoping for snow every year.

Reality of Christ, rainbow colors, ribbons, remembering, ravaged meal tables.

Instant nostalgia and excitement, impish children trying to fool Santa, independence, inexpensiveness of the best gifts.

Smell of green Christmas trees, snooping around for gifts, sparkling eyes, shaking gifts to identify them, sitting by the fire.

Trying to get everything done, trips to see kinfolks, tinsel catching the light rays.

Music, making candy, mailing one more card, messy house, even.

Afterglows, asking for gift suggestions, adding one more little gift.

Setting up our olive-wood nativity scene, scurrying around, stopping to catch a breath, skipping a meal to save calories for a party, settling down between the rushes, serenity of soul during the whole time, surely that peace is possible for me and anyone else who trust the Christ of Christmas, satisfied that when Christmas has gone, the peace remains.

And so I wish for you heightened joy and deeper peace these busy days.

### CLASSIFIED

DATE

### WANTED TO BUY

Buggy, Gurney or light weight Fire—available or repairable conditions. Write or call collect B. G. Spill, 200 St. Dominic Med. Office, Jackson, Ms. 39216, Phone: (601) 982-0311



## What Does Christmas Mean?

By Betty Henderson

Once again it is Christmas, the season of good will, love, and gift giving. Christmas, 1976! How rapidly the years pass; how often Christmas comes. It is time again to read the tender story and to sing familiar carols. It is a time of magic for small children, the whispered secrets, thoughts of Christmas morning that cause the eyes to glow with excitement. It is time for bringing home the fragrant tree, to decorate with lights, tinsel, and snow. It is a season for home going, the gathering of loved ones, time to send and to receive greetings of good wishes that spread joy around us like a warm coat.

This is the season when we can hear, despite the clamorings of men, the whispering of peace and feel the gentleness of grace and truth.

As we reflect on the Christmases past — how careful we must be not to smother Christmas in tinsel and sentimentality that the "Sweet Little

Jesus Boy" was the answer of a brokenhearted God to the problem of human sin. At Christmas we adore the Baby Jesus. It is easy to love a little baby. But the Baby Jesus grew up and talked about going to a Cross, loving your enemies, turning the other cheek. He grew up and went to a Cross, and it is difficult to follow Him that far. Yet, He demanded of all men "to take up his cross, and follow me."

What does Christmas mean? I have always thought of Christmas as a good time; a time when men and women, boys and girls open their hearts freely. Christians, church organizations, choirs, and carolers are bursting into song at this season just as they have done since the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas means a new relationship. The birth of Jesus was God's intrusion into history that we might be restored to God. Which one of us does not wish for a chance to begin again? We do not live long until we awaken to our need for a new beginning. Christmas means that such a new beginning exists. In a

real sense God began over when Jesus was born. Because God began over, we can also begin again.

Christmas also means a new life style. A new life style gained in the loss of life for the sake of others. We are our brothers' brother and we must proclaim the good news. Christmas is good news. . . Good news of a new beginning. When we deal with Jesus Christ we are dealing with eternity. He is no performer passing across the stage of history to be soon forgotten. So, we cannot afford to be casual with him or to ignore him. He is teaching us the meaning of our lives.

As I continue to think about Christmas I believe we could say that Christmas is the recollection of what God has done for us, the story of God in Action on our behalf. We will miss the meaning of Christmas entirely if we do not find it in our hearts to say on Christmas Day and Every Day, "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus."

May this Christmas Season bring you joy. May the new year bring you that peace that "passeth understanding of men," and may it bring nothing into your life to cause anxiety or worry. May you each have wisdom for all your needs. This is my wish for you at this Christmas Season.

For God saw loved the world as to give his Son, the Only-Begotten One, that all who believe in him should not perish, but have life for ever.  
—JOHN 3:16 (Braid Scots)

### Christmas Eve

It is Christmas Eve once again. The beauty of the expression of wonderment in a small child's eyes on Christmas morning won't be seen here tomorrow. Yet the brightly lighted tree with wrapped gifts remains, even though it's not the same. We've got the smallest tree we've ever had, this year. As I listen to the familiar and beautiful Christmas carols being played on the piano by my mother, I am carried back to Christmases past.

My mind travels back to the birth of Christ in a manger stall. God's perfect and most loving gift was given that night. And that is what Christmas is all about. My own childhood wonderment at Jesus' birth helps me put this Christmas Eve into a different perspective. — Karen Brown

## Off The Record

Two youngsters were dragging a large, awkward sack through the toy department of a store. They were making a lot of noise and bumping into customers.

The manager came up. "Now boys," he admonished, "if you keep on being troublesome, Santa Claus won't come to your house."

"That's what you think," retorted one youngster. "Who you think we got in this sack?"

A family of leopards ambled by a store window and saw the skin of a relative, now made into a fur coat. The price tag said \$2,000.

One leopard commented, "He was better off when he wasn't worth so much."

Two elderly ladies arrived at a baseball game just as the batter hit a home run. Twenty minutes later the same batter came up to bat and hit another home run. One of the old ladies turned to the other, "Let's go. This is where we came in."

The father of the household called the telephone company and ordered a 50-foot extension cord put on the phone. He explained, "I want my daughter to stay outside more now that the weather is nice."

Traveller: "How far is it to the next town?"

Farmer: "Two miles as the crow flies."

Traveller: "How far is it if the crow has to walk and roll a flat tire?"

### Music Of Christmas

Of all the beautiful music that we know and love, none is more beautiful than the music of Christmas. On that "Silent Night" so long ago "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks", the Christ Child was born "Away in a Manger" in the "Little Town of Bethlehem." On that "First Noel," the "Song in the Air" was "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come" as sung by "Angels From the Realms of Glory."

Once again, we are in the midst of another beautiful Christmas Season. "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" everywhere! O Come, All Ye Faithful, O Come, let us adore Him. "Then, 'Go, Tell It on the Mountain that Jesus Christ is born!'"

—Edwin Sudduth, Indianola

## "Which Way, Lord?"

By Jasper Collins, Pastor  
Bovina Mission, Vicksburg

I feel sure you intend to do nice things for family and friends at Christmas time, to show love and concern. But, what are you and your family PLANNING to do for Jesus on his birthday? This season compels us to "LOOK UP."

The wise men from the East said in Matthew 2:2, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Note some human factors surrounding the birth of the Babe in Bethlehem.

The wise men were wise in their coming but came into the presence of King Herod first. King Herod was fearful of competition and wanted the wise men to help him find the Christ child. Had the wise men not looked up to follow his star, they would never have found Jesus. They "looked up," followed the star and found the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. Faith and wisdom sent the wise men away by a different direction. We are just as different after we meet the master.

The angels "looked upon" the Babe in the manger. The shepherds must have "looked up" at the sound of angelic singing. Then by faith they went to see the miracle in the manger and "looked upon" their Master.

When lost upon the ocean because of the storm, the first thing the mariner does when the storm breaks is to have the navigator "look up" to the stars to find the shore. Having a great ocean of time to cross, we need to "look up" unto the one who can plot a course for our lives that will lead us safely to that eternal shore. This is a simple Christian principle.

In an editorial printed in U. S. News and World Report in April of 1963 and reprinted in June 1964, David Lawrence, the editor, said, "If the lives of the great statesmen of history teach in common a single lesson, it is that nations will steer by a compass. That compass is principle. We cannot chart a new course every time a new problem arises. To forsake principle for the opportunities of expediency is to start a nation on the road to self-destruction." Let's not self-destruct our denomination by being disobedient to the principles that have made us strong in Christ.

On my birthday, if you want to show love or appreciation for me, don't come into my house with many mutual friends and have a party and exchange gifts between yourselves, leaving me out. What have you and your family PLANNED for a gift to Jesus at Christmas, his birthday? May I suggest that you "LOOK UP" with a God-honoring gift to the LOTTIE MOON Christmas offering through your church.

## "O, Come Let Us Adore Him"

By Evie Landrum Goodrich

Today is a beautiful autumn one and I am staying in the home of one of my good friends while she teaches school. Her husband, Luke Mohon, an ex-pastor, has been confined to his bed for 19 years. He had a stroke which left him paralyzed and unable to walk.

His good wife sees that he gets the best of foods and has someone to watch after him while she is away. Never have I heard either complain or condemn the other. There is happiness and love which is felt, and it's a pleasure to be with them.

I have thought many times of what the Psalmist said, "Be still and know that I am God." An inner peace which passeth all understanding comes when we meditate upon the goodness of God.

It was reported that after the great Japanese Christian, Kagawa, visited America that he said after he left, "What Americans need is to sit down and be quiet for awhile."

We are so geared up now it is no wonder that blood pressure rises, words are spoken unwisely, and misunderstandings are prevalent.

Someone said, "The first sermon in the world was preached at creation. It was a divine object lesson of perfect law, perfect plan, perfect order, and perfect method."

As I think of the beauty of this day and see the handiwork of God I see that all phases of nature show plan, calmness, and the absence of hurry.

We need to retire from the world, and be still and think of the goodness of God. Take time to be holy and time to behold Him.



### Central Passes Goal In One Day

Central Church, Brookhaven, set a record goal of \$1250 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. This goal was exceeded with \$1263.70 on the first Sunday night, shown by lighting the angel as members made their commitment. To date, a total of \$1581.70 has been given. Pictured with the lighted angel is Mrs. Corine Brown, associate WMU director, and H. Glen Schilling, pastor. Mrs. Georgia Myers is WMU director.

### Sunday School Lesson: International For December 26

## Christmas: Promise Fulfilled

By Wm J. Fallis  
Luke 2:21-38

Yesterday was Christmas — a festival of family joy and a birthday of the Lord! Was the day itself as meaningful as you expected? For children it included endless days of tingling anticipation and then the shining climax of joy. It was all of a piece for them. But from your mature perspective, did the day bring fulfillment in fresh awareness of its meaning? Have the previous lessons helped you see Jesus' birth in a clearer light?

The Lesson Explained  
Jesus Fulfilled Simeon's Hope  
(vv. 25-32)

In verses 22 and 24 Luke refers to requirements of the law of Moses concerning childbirth, and we can find them in Leviticus 12, verses 4 and 8 respectively. It was the obligation to present her child to the Lord that brought Mary and Joseph to the Temple. The size of their offering revealed that they were of limited means.

When the little family arrived, a man named Simeon came forward and took the child Jesus "in his arms, and blessed God." Then, much to the amazement of Mary and Joseph, he said some remarkable things in a prayer. It was probably not until later that they learned who he was, and Mary may have told Luke.

Simeon had been led by the Spirit to come to the Temple. Evidently of advanced years, he had been assured by the Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. For a long time he had been waiting and hoping for the "consolation of Israel." Now he is sure his hope has been fulfilled, and he is ready to leave this life contented because he has seen God's promised salvation.

Simeon Foretold A Time Of Crisis  
(vv. 33-35)

When the old man finished his prayer, he saw that Mary and Joseph were astonished at what he had said about Jesus. So he blessed them and then spoke directly to Mary about some strange things that would happen because of Jesus. Many people in

Israel would rise or fall because of him. He would be a sign, an evidence of God's rule, which many would reject, thus revealing their secret thoughts. Even Mary would suffer — as though from a sword — because of what he would endure. So, Simeon's calling Jesus the "salvation" from God did not mean that his career would be one of easy acceptance. Instead, it would force people to make the ultimate decision — for or against God.

Anna Sensed Jesus' Saving Role  
(vv. 36-38)

Evidently the eighty-four-year-old widow Anna came up to the family as Simeon was leaving. Again, Luke introduces the speaker before he tells us what she said. In both of these cases, respected and devout Jews — one man and one woman — testify from their spiritual insight as to the identity of Jesus.

Anna was a prophetess, which probably meant that she lived and spoke by the leading of the Spirit. She lived in the Temple, participating in its worship continually. When she saw Jesus, she also gave thanks to God.

### Lesson: Life and Work For December 26

## The Joy Of Life In Christ

By Bill Duncan  
First Church, Long Beach  
John 10:1-11; Philippians 1:1-26

How glorious is the blessing which everyone receives who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. Not only does there come a change in his disposition and manner of life; he also receives from God an entirely new life. This means more than that our life shall no more die, enduring into eternity. Eternal life is nothing less than the very life of God so that the believer becomes a son of God.

Life is power. Whenever God gives life to a young plant or animal, that life has in itself the power of growth. In the new life — that is in your heart — there is the inconceivable power of eternity. Basically there are two things that hinder this power and the reception of the new spiritual life. One is ignorance of the nature of this life — its laws and workings. This new life surpasses all of man's thoughts. Man thinks humanly and carnally and must have the Holy Spirit to make known what he gives. There is a second hindrance which is that man fails to believe that

he shall grow. Because the mighty works and life is not visible or cannot be felt but works in the midst of human weakness, the young Christian often becomes of doubtful mind.

The Abundant Life  
There is a wide gulf between Almighty God in His holiness on the one side, and natural man in his sin on the other. The situation can be pictured as a wall separating God and man. The wall is real and the door in the wall has significance because the separation is real. The door is valuable because it is the entrance into the presence of God. Jesus said, "I am the door." When one accepts Jesus as the Son of God, the Saviour, and Lord of life he enters into life and receives forgiveness of sin which has separated man from God. By accepting Jesus as Lord, the sinner is accepted as the child of God.

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) There are two facets of our salvation to be seen here. In the first are those who have life and no more. They are saved but uncomfortable and carnal. They are heaven-bound but not

heaven-happy here and now. Jesus came that we not only might have life, but the manner in which we have it is significant. The manner of receiving the fullness of life is based upon trust.

"To me to live is Christ." What did the apostle Paul mean? There are seven things he might have meant:

1. Christ is the author of his life. It was as though he had written: To me to live at all is Christ.
  2. Christ was the sustainer of his life. To me to continue to live is Christ.
  3. Christ was the law of his life. The conditions in which I live my life are summed up in Christ.
  4. Christ was the product of his life. To me to live is to reproduce Christ.
  5. Christ was the aim and influence of his life. To me to live is to lead men to Christ.
  6. Christ was the impulse of his life. To me to live is to be swept along under the compassion of the Christ.
  7. Christ was the finisher, the crown of his life. To me to live is at last to be what He is, and to find the crowning of all my manhood in Him.
- This is the key to a joyful triumphant life.

### Tears Of The World

"Dear Lord, sometimes the tears of the whole world wash down on me as if they were all my own. I am a hungry child staring through a window of a restaurant. I am a mother bending over the body of her starving baby. I am an old man, shivering in his thin jacket. How shall I join myself to them, Lord? Teach me, teach me!"

"If someone who is supposed to be a Christian has money enough to live well, and sees a brother in need, and won't help him — how can God's love be with him? Little children, let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions!" (1 John 3:17-18 The Living Bible).

—Pineville Postscripts

### God Sees The Sparrows

"He sees to us the sparrow" (and on the mocking bird too) And we know how much more He watches over me and you!

To our window sills, when the world is cold, He sends dear friends Who understand and share His gift of love that never ends.

He has a special pattern for each soulmate, and a plan Not only for the sparrows (and mocking birds) but for man.

## SCRAPBOOK

### Sounds of Christmas

In the hush of this winter night what is that I hear as I lie awake, shepherds calling to lost sheep, angelic voices prophesying of peace and good-will, cattle lowing in a stable, stars shining brilliantly, making heavenly music or a mother's lullaby soothing a new born babe?

No, my ears catch none of these sounds but I listen to children's laughter while they tiptoe off to bed; I hear Santa's "Ho, ho" as he delivers each toy, people singing carols in cold white moonlight; a beggar rattling coins someone has given him; church bells ringing for the faithful. All these sounds tell me this is Christmas, the birthday of Jesus — God's gift of love to all mankind!

—Eunice Barnes

### The Fact

The child in my world is two. He thinks he knows who Santa Claus is — That genial, jolly old fellow handing out gifts. When Tommy is five, somebody's going to tell him Who Santa Claus is — A harmless ideal, but hardly real.

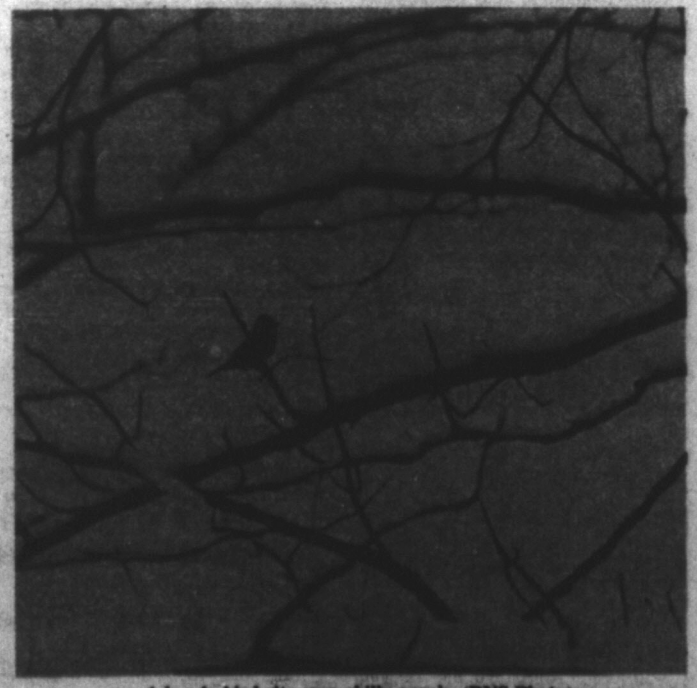
As Tommy's relative once removed, I slipped a record under the Christmas tree. Then played it gently on the stereo — "Jesus loves me — This I know, for the Bible tells me so." The baby's smile set the truth aglow. God, let Tommy always know.

—Violet Tackett

### Prince of Peace

Create within me, oh Lord, a divine spark of decency, compassion and gallant horse sense. Purify my thoughts of petty schemes, that I may be able to see the empty ladder of my next-door neighbor. Shine through my fragile personality and make my body a glowing ember. And help me to hide behind the cross of Calvary to preach Christ, the Prince of Peace.

—Hafford Berry



A lonely bird sits on a chilly perch. (RNS Photo).

"He knows the way through the wilderness" and if we follow, He'll give us strength for today and courage for tomorrow.

In the wilderness of our life He supplies all of our needs And His grace is sufficient for the path in which He leads.

First, of the cross our sorrow also must all be washed away, Then we'll be white as the snow that falls on the winter's day.

At this Christmas season, when you're feeding the little birds, Be still and let the Creator, and feast upon His Words.

—Victoria Slagley